

Earth First!

Lughnasadh

August-September

THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

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TROLLS GRIND ROAD TO A HALT

THE FIGHT TO SAVE ALASKA'S COPPER RIVER DELTA

BY SÖREN, ELIJAH AND GABE

In the midnight sun of the summer Solstice, the sound of hammers striking rebar and the friendly voice of Busty the security guard rang out across the Copper River Delta. "What a pleasant surprise," Busty commented as we erected barricades over the newly constructed bridge. As the support team chatted with Busty over cups of coffee, six bridge trolls slid into place, locking themselves around the central support beams. Clear Creek, the first of more than 200 streams (many of them salmon bearing) to be crossed by the Carbon Mountain road, flowed along, undisturbed for the time being.

The community of Cordova sits near Prince Williams Sound and the Copper River, which flows a turbid brown from the glacial silt of the Chugach, Wrangell and Alaska ranges into the Pacific Ocean. Most year-round residents (the population almost doubles in the summer fishing season) still practice subsistence hunting and gathering. The land and sea provide for these people. Salmon are the cornerstone of the economy. Any local first-grader can tell you the difference between a "pink" and a "dog" salmon, and might relay information on the relative health of the runs this year.

An unbelievably wide array of wild critters, from grizzly bears to sea otters, participate in this ecosystem. Even Congress recognized the extraordinary nature of the Copper River Delta when it emphasized that "the conservation of fish and wildlife and their



Machinery leaving its wake on one of the Carbon Mountain road's 200 stream crossings

habitat shall be the primary purpose for the management of the Copper River." This is the only district in the entire national forest system not designated as multi-use, giving protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife this statutory priority.

Basecamp sits on spongy moss in a second-growth forest of Sitka spruce. This little grove is part of the largest intact wetland on the Pacific coastline, the 700,000-acre delta of the Copper River. More than 100 inches of rain each year, coupled with glacial runoff from the surrounding mountains, give this place a profoundly soggy character. Water takes many forms—frozen as ice, falling as rain, trickling through streams, standing in ponds and gushing down rivers. The Alaskan sun fuels an explosion of plant and animal life. Ravens, eagles and millions of migrating shore birds fill the atmosphere with their songs.

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ECOTERRORISM on Capitol Hill

BY JAMES A. BARNES AND CRAIG BENEVILLE

One steamy day this spring in Washington, DC, a maladroitness posse of America's foamiest anti-environmental tweekers lurched up Capitol Hill to appear before Representative Bill McCollum (R-FL), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime.

Chairman McCollum introduced the proceedings by explaining the nature of the "growing and extremely disturbing problem of violent acts by radical environmental organizations, or 'ecoterrorism.'" And while he asserted that his purpose in convening the hearings was not "to unfairly malign any person or group," he made it clear that "radical environmentalists [i.e., you and me] generate nothing but terror."

The assembled witnesses stood up one by one and testified to the horrors they had witnessed, including shocking instances of sit-ins, sabotage, loud noises and uncivilized behavior. All the testimonies are characterized by gross exaggeration and, where documentable, fail to adequately describe actual events. The most extreme statement came from Bruce Vincent, a Montana wise-use activist, who claimed rape and death threats had been leveled against his children. Mostly, though, the statements were all very silly.

First up to the plate was Julie Rogers, a staffer from Representative Frank Riggs' (R-CA) district office. Rogers' life has taken an exciting turn lately, as she was witness to the notorious pepper-swallowing of activists during last year's occupation of Riggs' Humboldt office. Tuned into their TV sets, Americans saw firsthand the brutal video of police torturers methodically daubing pepper spray into the eyes of screaming locked-down activists.

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UPRISING AT AUSTRALIA'S JABILUKA MINE

BY JOHN HALLAM

Though Australia isn't known for its passion, a passionate struggle is being waged there to protect a spectacular place called the Kakadu. Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) is trying to open the Jabiluka uranium mine, the most heinous of the 20 mines proposed by the Howard government. Already, over 350 people have been arrested defending the site in a campaign of resistance bold and righteous enough to inspire campaigners on any continent. America has the redwoods; England had Newbury; and Australia has Jabiluka, a campaign that will define the form of Australian activism for years to come.

Jabiluka is the second-largest undeveloped uranium deposit on the planet and is owned by ERA, which also operates the Ranger uranium deposit on a neighboring lease 20 kilometers to the south. The Ranger deposit was opened up after the exceedingly controversial Ranger Environmental Inquiry in the 1970s. The Jabiluka deposit was also reviewed by that inquiry.

In fact, the first development proposal and Environmental Impact Statement for Jabiluka was submitted in 1977 (and this author commented on it.) The project went into deep freeze after a Labour government was elected in 1983, and for many years it was simply assumed by everyone that Jabiluka didn't have a chance. It would, after all, be a uranium mine on aboriginal land in a national park.

Indeed, Kakadu is a very special place. It qualifies as a World Heritage National Park on five criteria (three natural heritage criteria and two cultural ones). All that is needed to get on the register is one.

Kakadu's cultural heritage listing derives from the fact that its inhabitants have resided there since about 60,000 B.C. Their representatives, the Mirrar people, are alive now, vigorously opposing the mine.



One of the many actions to slow the Earth movers at Kakadu

Kakadu is a treasure-house of aboriginal sacred art that dates from 10 to 20,000 B.C. to the mid 1970s. This is not only an incredibly ancient tradition; it's a living tradition whose practitioners are still around. Art at Nourlangie Rock, for example, reads continuously from 20,000 BC to contemporary times. Nourlangie has been compared to the caves at Lascaux in France, except that it's as if the relatives of painters at Lascaux were around now.

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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

POB 1415 • EUGENE, OREGON 97440 • (541) 344-8004



MARKETING FOR MISFITS

Why do you subscribe to the *EF! Journal*? Probably for the same reason we work long hours below minimum wage. The same reason many activists give up the comfort and stability of living in one place and pursuing the usual diversions of cities to hitchhike, sleep on couches, eat donated food, get harassed by cops and work long days for no pay. Why? Because we are driven to the brink of insanity everyday by this greedy industrial culture which makes war against the Earth, this amazing synthesis of plants, animals, elements and processes that offers us free room and board. It makes war against the spirit of wildness which flows through us all whispering the message of balance, of a natural order that cannot be dominated by culture.

This is why we all need to be tirelessly affecting cultural change, and a good way to do this is to promote biocentric anarchism and the *EF! Journal*. The revolutionary message of putting the Earth first needs to penetrate the minds of every person—an ever greater challenge as we compete with the watered-down messages of pale green magazines with their “green consumer” pages and car ads, not to mention the pervasive corporate greenwashing. We publish the radical message of the grassroots, free from corporate influence, and we need to scream louder than the rest so people will turn their heads and listen. But we need your help to do this! We can't afford, nor would we choose, to do a massive direct mail campaign. But we can surface from the mire of junk mail and speed-glam TV commercials with our passion, sincerity and some guerrilla marketing schemes that we can implement together.

We need to have our own media because we can't get much across to people with a ten-second sound bite. People need to hear the story from our perspective, in our words. The *EF! Journal* should not be the only radical ecological media by any means, but it has the momentum of 19 years of publishing. It is sold in bookstores across the country. Of course, the media coverage you get is what makes people most interested in reading the *Journal*. This is all the more reason to refer to us when talking to the press.

There are many creative ways to promote *EF!* consciousness and the *Journal* without money. Write a letter to the editor of your local daily and weekly. Talk about whatever issues you are passionate about, and tell people they can learn more by subscribing to the *Journal* (mention our phone number and offer a free sample). If activists in your area have a public access TV show, get on there and do the same. Local listener-funded radio sta-

tions usually do funding drives where they give away premiums from businesses. If you tell us how to contact them, we can offer free subscriptions. If you have a regional activist newsletter, get the publishers to put an ad in it for us. If the newsletter wants compensation, help us barter an ad exchange. When you know your local paper will be doing a feature on ecological issues or protests, tell us, we may advertise next to the story.

If your local bookstores don't carry us, ask them to order the paper and say you'll buy it there (really you should continue to subscribe though). We can provide them with a list of our distributors if they won't order directly. Send us addresses of friends, family or people who are involved locally so we can send them free samples. When you are doing outreach in your community, have the *Journal* at your table and have a sign-up list for samples. Become a contact for your region if there is not one already. You can sell the *Journal* to fundraise for local activities and have your group listed in our contact directory. All we ask is that you pay the cost of mailing. You can sell subscriptions on commission if you're really ambitious. If you know any public spaces (like college campuses) where an ad poster can be put up, get in touch with us, and we'll send you one. If you frequent the Internet, put our Web address and something like “Subscribe to the *EF! Journal*” on your e-mail signature. Put a link on your Web page to ours, preferably using the little banner we made (it's on our page).

Some of you may be adverse to the above tactics, but the reality is we need to penetrate the minds of millions of people. If we don't use every means possible, including common marketing schemes, than we aren't doing enough. Subverting the dominant paradigm is like dragging an enormous boulder hundreds of miles, a challenge for the long-haul. But the harder we pull on the collective psyche, the quicker the transformation. So, give us a call if you have any ideas or can help, renew your subscription for two years, think twice about what you can do to promote biocentric thought and the *EF! Journal*, and ponder the movement-promotion possibilities of the coming motion picture *The Monkeywrench Gang*.

—JEFF HOGG, SUBS DADABOY, WEBWEAVER & COUNTER-MARKETER

Errata: An article in the June-July issue about the Badger sale in eastern Oregon makes reference to clearcutting east of the Cascades. In actuality, little clearcutting happens in Eastern Oregon (though the alternative logging methods are equally devastating).

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via e-mail. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. (Prints are best, negatives are good, slides are fair.) They will be returned if requested.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

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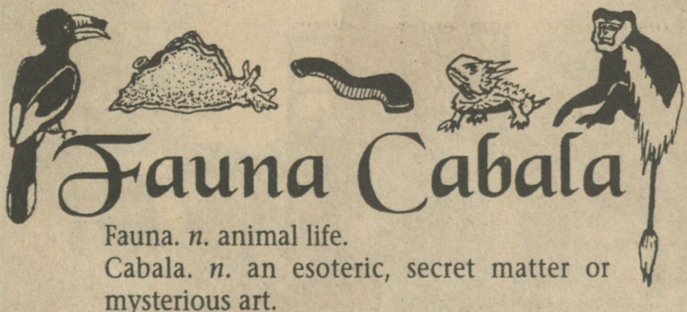
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River blockade
Back cover: Errol Schweizer, bighorn
sheep and the Continental Divide

SCHEDULE

Earth First! Journal is published 8 times a year on the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days on or about November 1, December 21 (Winter Solstice), February 2, March 21 (Vernal Equinox), May 1, June 21 (Summer Solstice), August 1, and September 21 (Autumnal Equinox). One-year subscriptions in the US via third class mail are \$25. First class delivery is \$35. Outside the US, surface delivery is \$35 and airmail is \$45. Corporate and law enforcement rate is \$45.

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August 24



Fauna. *n.* animal life.

Cabala. *n.* an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

Naked mole-rats (*Heterocephalus glaber*), living entirely underground in the deserts of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, are the only vertebrate analogue of social insect societies. Like ants, bees, wasps and termites, these nearly hairless, wrinkled, three- to six-inch long rodents live in groups in which labor is divided between classes. The queen, larger than her pink underlings, is very aggressive and prevents other adult females from ovulating. She and several kings are the only reproductive members of the colony. Similar to the sterile worker castes of insect societies, nonreproductive individuals split the other tasks. Smaller members dig tunnels with their prominent incisors, move nest materials, and

forage for bulbs and tubers. Larger members defend the colony from predators and assist with big excavations. Together, the 70-80 colony members build an elaborate tunnel system, called a nest, about two miles in length. Of constant temperature and humidity, it contains birthing chambers, tuber-harvesting tunnels, pantries, toilets and escape routes. The mole-rats virtually never ascend from their subterranean haven into the harsh environment above.

Several factors working in concert likely led to the evolution of this extreme form of social behavior. The importance of a nest in an arid environment and the difficulty of starting a new one (due to lack of food and water, high temperatures, predation and limited breeding success) probably encouraged delayed dispersal. It is more reproductively advantageous to help relatives reproduce until individuals are large enough to vie for spots as royalty. This sole example of a vertebrate falling on the far end of the continuum of sociality shows that the precise conditions for its evolution are rarely in place.

BY FAITH WALKER

RADICAL ECOLOGY FROM THE URBAN JUNGLE

BY ERROL SCHWEIZER

Modern ecological catastrophes are the result of the economic, social and cultural system imposed by industrial capitalism. While many ecologists disagree on the roots of humankind's domination of nature and other humans, it is this form of capitalism that maintains the social relationships that lead to patriarchy, racism, speciesism, classism and wilderness destruction. Because of skin color, economic status, gender, ethnic group, etc., some people are in a more privileged position in society than others. By moving closer to the natural world and becoming environmental activists, many of us are trying to break down these hierarchies we have inherited. But as our society is torn further away from its natural roots, fewer people experience wilderness; ecological awareness itself has become a privilege. If you have never seen the forest or the trees, how do you see the forest *through* the trees? How can a biocentric worldview, one that realizes and respects our connections to all living beings, even be considered when experiencing the wild has never been an option?

Because biocentrism comes loaded with the cultural and economic biases of its adherents, the visions of nature that many biocentrists talk about reflect this. "Environment" means groves of old-growth forest, rugged mountains and grizzly bears. However, it is *also* going to have to mean urban jungles, polluted, low-income housing tracts and sewage treatment plants, realities which are as far from nature as humankind gets. The survival of so much life on Earth is dependent on what is produced, consumed and excreted by people in the city; wouldn't it be better for the planet if more city dwellers could make a direct connection between their daily survival and the survival of all other life?

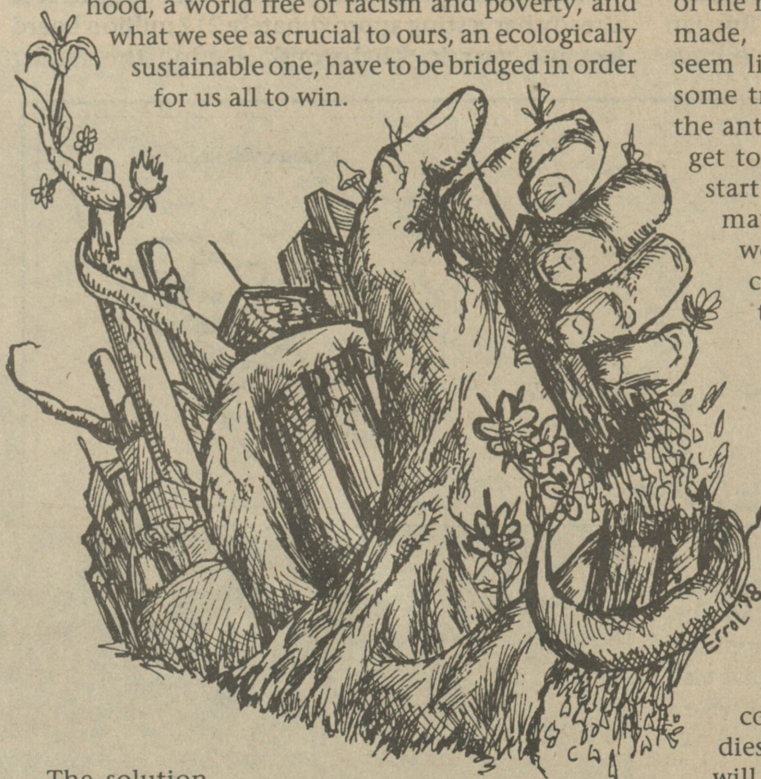
Many environmental activists are white, middle-class, well educated and suburban-dwelling, and did not grow up in a polluted, crowded inner-city or an isolated, rural town. Access to higher education, money to buy outdoor gear, even the access and proximity to wilderness areas, are not available to all citizens in this society.

Just imagine going to school with decrepit textbooks, getting jumped by the local crackheads on the subway, or watching the cops beat your friends up for no reason other than their color. Just imagine your only concept of "the outdoors" being garbage strewn lots and the corner playground.

Imagine never

having had access to computers, let alone choosing to reject them. Backpacking in the High Sierras? Your family goes to the beach twice a summer and swims in barely treated sewage. Health food stores? How about fast food and malt liquor on every corner instead?

This separation does not justify maintaining a politics or lifestyle that some may consider "anti-environmental." But like the saying goes, "Walk a mile in these shoes." A friend of mine from our neighborhood in New York City once remarked, "What's this save-the-whales bullshit? I got racism to worry about." What he sees as crucial to his livelihood, a world free of racism and poverty, and what we see as crucial to ours, an ecologically sustainable one, have to be bridged in order for us all to win.



The solution to this division may be twofold. On the one hand, we need to create the spaces for marginalized voices to speak about their environments. That means giving more space within our journal and movement to activists like Save Ward Valley, MOVE, Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Urban Habitat Program and other groups dealing with environmental racism. It may also mean hooking up with radical organizations working in urban areas, such as the IWW, the Black Panthers, the Puerto Rico Collective, Reclaim the Streets and various community groups and seeing what we have in common with them. Bringing kids and activists from the inner city to basecamps

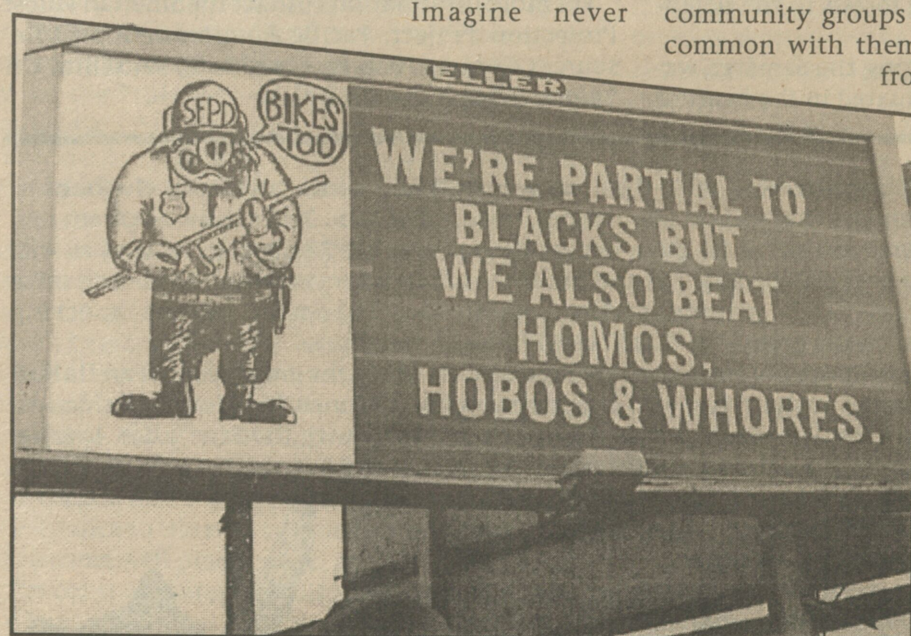
and educating them about wilderness defense is another step. When I was a counselor at a camp near the inner city, I would take the kids hiking in nearby woods. What started out as fear and reluctance soon turned into a growing enchantment and curiosity with this new reality. And when they were told that every year greedy bastards cut down millions of acres of trees *just like these*, well, I think we gained a few more wilderness defenders.

Many environmentalists are already organizing against roadbuilding, cars and air pollution in the cities, as well as uniting with anti-poverty and homesteading groups. The city is where the heart of the machine beats, where the big decisions are made, where issues of old-growth preservation seem light years away. A few radicals sitting in some trees is interesting, but it doesn't threaten the anti-ecological forces. But if the tree-dwellers get together with their urban counterparts and start shaking the system at its core, more things may change. The cities are not going away, so we'll just have to reclaim them. EF! will become a real threat to the system when it hits the streets as well as the forests.

The other part of the solution may be to reframe the issues without splitting them into "social" and "environmental." When a forest is clearcut, all the diverse communities of flora and fauna are wiped out. Whole ecosystems become fragmented, leading to topsoil loss, flooding, landslides and species displacement, only to be replaced by a monoculture (eucalyptus or white pines, cows, coffee or some other cash-crop commodity). And the destruction has social roots: The responsible company got enormous roadbuilding subsidies, bought the land for a fraction of what it will sell the wood for and probably had its hands in some bigwig's pocket on Capitol Hill.

We can find a parallel example of this in inner cities. In order to disperse diverse communities, especially where pockets of resistance have formed, city planners enact a policy called "spacial deconcentration." By decreasing municipal services, such as fire prevention, health care, education and family services, the area becomes unlivable. Arson, violent crimes, AIDS and drugs spread, effectively depopulating the communities. The burned out crack-houses and empty lots represent a city clearcut of its diversity. These areas are usually owned by developers who gentrify them to attract white, suburban, middle-class money.

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Dear ever evolving EF! Journal,

Yaaa! Another nonviolence debate! TV smashings leave too many folks in shoot-'em-up withdrawal? Yes, certain well played out C.D. methods are getting pathetically stale. But the fault is not nonviolence per se, simply a lack of applied imagination within the accepted framework of nonviolence. As "radical environmentalists" it's easy to become attracted to extremes. Even if they are tactically lame. That is, however, no

justification to embrace the other polarity of violence. You want an armed conflict over the fate of the next threatened watershed? Yaaa! Let the shit fly! I know a bar full of drunken rednecks who would love to let loose. I know an FBI that is wet over the idea of turning a RRR into the next Waco. Rod's article page 3 Dec-Jan EF! Journal begins by stating that the powers that be will only be threatened when a critical mass of everyday people are involved in the

Radical Right like clinic bombings, anthrax, violence mongering talk shows, "wise-users" and Forest Service office arsons. The Radical Left Enviro/Anarchist Movement has always been too diverse to fit neatly under the EF! label, which has always carried a nonviolence agreement. If anyone is seeking a more violent approach, start your own damn group and don't sully the work of hardworking activists under the EF! banner.

—SLUGTHANG

BILLBOARDS TO THE EDITORS

movement. He got that part right. Having traveled far from the sandbox circles of EF! I've found the general impression of EF! lately is that of sympathy and support. Especially since the macing of activists. The public is on our side. The next step is to inspire involvement, not alienate with the tools of the

Dear earth first!

I loved "Cookin' with Gas" by Jebediah [Nedd Ludd last issue]. It was really informative, entertaining, imaginative and fun! I'm going to get my crescent wrench and oil it immediately! Wow! What a mind. Why didn't I think of that. So simple, easy but ooooh so effective! Great Idea!

—DUDLEY

Dear SFB:

A big hairy howl from jail to all responsible for the flood of support. Jim Flynn's editorial struck home inside me. It seems we are stuck in the mediocrity of what each campaign tells us we should and should not do. We have lost our teeth, our anger. The natural world is being torn apart before our very eyes as we agree to conform to overt nonviolent guidelines. We seem unwilling or unable to recognize that we are involved in a war and we are overwhelmingly outgunned. We cannot even hold a hope of winning with a one dimensional

strategy. I recognize that we do not hear of all covert action, but I still feel that the energy has dissipated when we need it to rise the most. We need to learn to sacrifice more for the Earth. Much can be learned from the radical Animal Rights movement. The plowshares people as well have much to teach us about sacrifice. We must recognize what is truly at stake and realize the immediacy with which we must face the destructors. We need to fight to bankrupt the military industrial machine. Now is the time to rise up in anger. The machine is helping us through its own over consumption and idiocy. On January 1st, 2000 many important computer systems will crash due to an idiotic miscalculation by its designers. It is imperative that from now until the final crash, that we do all that is in our power to speed this crash along. It will need to crash several times before finality. On a final note,

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SAMARGA

Malaysian Company Buys Up Russian Forest for Pennies per Acres

BY DAVE MARTIN

In 1993, local and international pressure kept Weyerhaeuser from logging in the pristine forests of the Russian Far East. But a new Russian Forestry Code has made it easier for foreign companies to gain access to these forests. The Malaysian company Rimbunan Hijau is now hoping to do what Weyerhaeuser could not.

In December 1997, the administration of the Khabarovsk region in the Russian Far East awarded the first long-term timber tender under the Russian Forest Code. This decision both threatens a huge area of Russian wilderness and sets a dangerous precedent for all future tenders. The Samarga River watershed of the northern Primorskii region may likely become the first test of this precedent.

The December decision gave Rimbunan Hijau (RH) a 48-year lease to 760,000 acres of forest land, including over 550,000 acres of old-growth forest in the Sukpai watershed. This area is located in the southern Khabarovsk region, in the northern part of the Sikhote-Alin mountain range. The anticipated annual harvest from this tender is 223 million board feet. RH is required to make a one-time payment of US \$450,000 to the Khabarovsk administration for the tender, which amounts to approximately 1.25 cents per acre per year. The deal also includes money for the Khabarovsk Forest Service's regeneration program, and the purchase of 11 vehicles for three local communities.

During the meeting of the tender commission, members did not pose a single question about Rimbunan's history or enforcement of environmental regulations. Unfortunately, RH has a long history of poor management, destructive logging practices and shady business dealings. It is estimated that RH controls 60 percent of the timber industry in Papua New Guinea, an area that has seen massive destruction of its primary forests at the hands of logging companies. RH has been accused of illegal harvest, underpaying landowners, corruption, environmental violations, tax evasion and breaking agreements to build local roads and schools.

The Sukpai tender is located along the route of a long-proposed logging road from the village of Sukpai to the port of Nelma. Nelma is located in a

remote watershed of Primorskii region, just south of the Botchi Nature Reserve, an area of pristine forests protected from logging by Weyerhaeuser in 1993. Rimbunan representatives say that development of the Sukpai forests will not be economically viable without this road. Construction of this road has been opposed by local and international environmental groups because it would open huge areas of ancient forests to logging and other extractive development.

Rimbunan's plans did not start with Sukpai. It is already harvesting approximately 212 million board feet per year in Khabarovsk. During the tender

the Sikhote-Alin mountain range and is home to a wide variety of endangered plant and animal species, including the hooded crane and Amur (Siberian) tiger. It also supports the traditional hunting and fishing activities of indigenous cultures, including the Udege people. Though the area has been proposed for protection, no official action has been taken.

It is only natural that Rimbunan is interested in the Nelma road. This would give RH access to an additional two million acres of forest. RH has stated that it hopes to harvest at least 424 million board feet annually in the Samarga watershed alone.

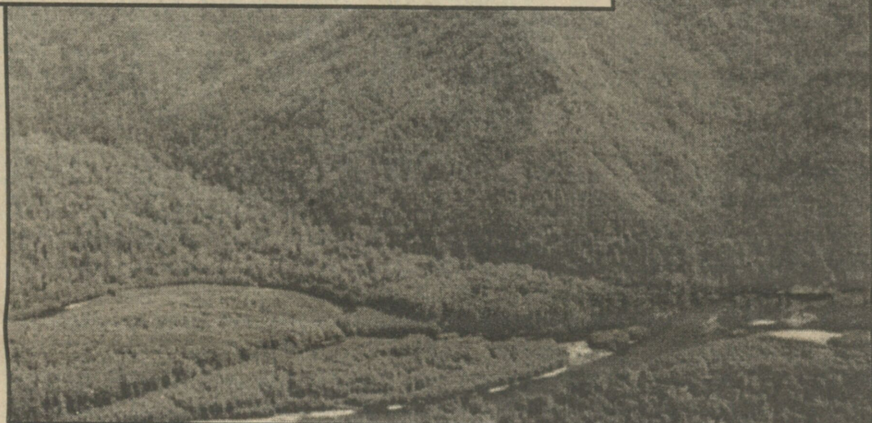
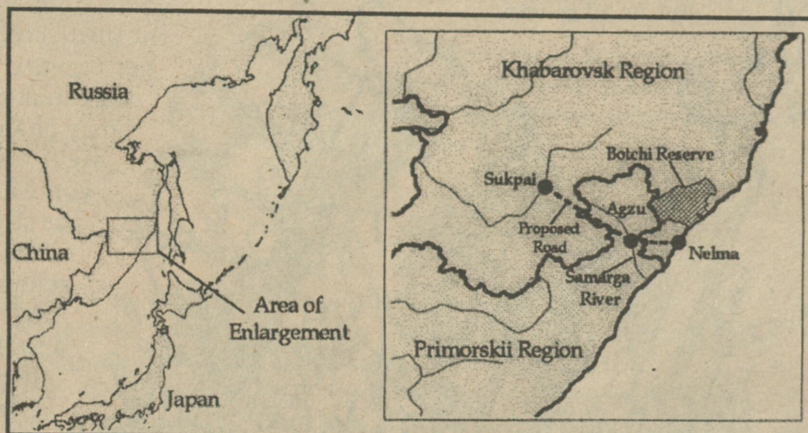
The threat of increased logging is obviously not limited to Sukpai and Samarga. Sukpai was only the first tender completed under the new Russian Forest Code. The outlook for future tenders is ominous given the precedent set by the Sukpai tender process. There were no representatives of indigenous groups or non governmental organizations (NGOs) represented on the tender commission. No mention

was made of developing non-timber forest products or other alternatives to industrial logging. There was also no mention of requiring the logging to be certified according to Forest Stewardship Council or similar standards. Emphasis was placed on short-term economic gain at the expense of long-term, sustainable development.

Thus far, Primorskii authorities have not started the tender process for the Samarga. Local NGOs are working to educate officials and the public about the threat of industrial logging by companies like Rimbunan Hijau. Most importantly, NGOs are working to encourage sustainable

alternatives to logging in the Samarga watershed. Let us hope that authorities learn from the mistakes made in Khabarovsk's Sukpai tender and instead make sound decisions to secure a sustainable future for the Russian Far East.

For more information contact the Siberian Forest Protection Project, Pacific Environment and Resources Center, 1055 Ft. Cronkhite, Sausalito, CA 94965; (415) 332-8200.



Hundreds of millions of board feet will be cut in this pristine area.

commission meeting, representatives of RH asked commission members to "reserve" nearby forests for potential leases because they believe the value of timber leased in the Sukpai was overestimated! RH representatives also refused to answer questions about their interest in leasing forests in the neighboring Samarga watershed.

Rimbunan's interest in logging the Samarga watershed is well known. It is situated in the heart of

photo and graphic by Dave Martin

Wolves & Poodles

A blood-soaked, bullet-riddled poodle to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for letting a wolf killer walk free. A camper in the Gila Headwaters Ecosystem shot and killed an endangered Mexican gray wolf because it attacked his dog. The USFWS allowed the camper to claim self-defense because the wolf allegedly came within 50 feet of his wife, thereby avoiding the controversy of an Endangered Species Act violation. No healthy wolf has ever attacked a human in North America.

A big, fat, lying and whiny poodle to Patrick Moore, the former Greenpeace president who is suing several grassroots environmental groups for libel. According to Moore, a website calling him a big, fat liar "contains false information and defames him." Moore, now director of the timber-industry affiliated BC Forest Alliance, is seeking damages from the Forest Action Network, Rainforest Action Network, Ruckus Society and several other groups that have posted and circulated these statements. FAN has since retracted the part of the statement calling Moore fat.

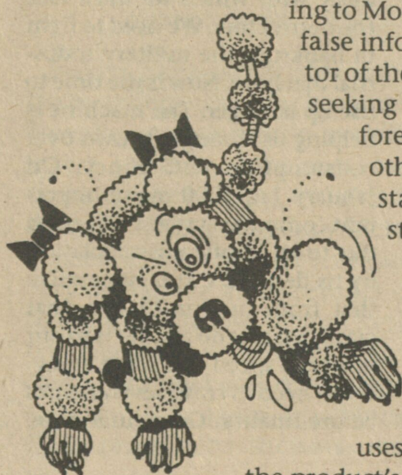
A poodle wasting away from radiation sickness to Nestle for marketing a candy bar called "Nuclear Chocolate," complete with a "chocolate chain reaction" logo. Inspired by the film Armageddon, where heroic oil drillers use nukes to save the earth from a comet, the candy bar uses "nuclear in a fun, cool manner to communicate the product's energy," according to one Nestle bigwig.

A light-hearted wolf that just received an enema goes to an elephant in Germany that shit on a zookeeper, suffocating him. Because the elephant had been constipated for days, her zookeeper gave her 22 doses of laxative as well as a bushel of berries, figs and prunes. As the zookeeper was giving her an olive oil enema, the plentiful pachyderm unloaded 200 pounds of poop, knocking him to the ground and suffocating him in the muck.

A wolf raising the flag of worker's solidarity to the employees of an Italian company who refused to build a telescope destined for Mount Graham in southern Arizona. In a strong show of solidarity with the San Carlos Apache, who consider the mountain sacred, workers at two companies have refused to work on parts for the planned telescope. The workers have the full support of their union.

A spirited, death-defying wolf to the harpooned Minke whale that rammed the boat hunting it. After being shot by a Norwegian whaler north of the Arctic Circle, the feisty whale attacked the ship, breaking its mast and tossing two crewmen into the icy waters. Here's to animal self-liberation!

A Keystone Kops Wolf Award for Outstanding Police Performance goes to two undercover officers whose red-hot car exhaust burned down a hay filled barn. Hot on the trail of eco-warriors who had decontaminated genetically engineered crops in the UK, the cops set up a secret camera on the roof of the barn. Their plan was shot down in flames when the hay caught fire, incinerating the barn, the camera and the car.



DECONTAMINATING THE UK'S GENETIC WILDERNESS

BY JIM SNAIL

It's not everyday that the national press phones up the next king of England to ask whether he supports direct action, but then it's not everyday that Earth First!ers find themselves so publicly on the same side as royalty. Only days after seven fields of genetically engineered (GE) oil seed rape were decontaminated in one night across England, Prince Charles published a damning attack on the genetic engineering of crops in the UK's most right-wing paper. The press loved it. His article surfaced just as biotech giant Monsanto launched a \$1.6-million charm offensive in the weekend papers to win over angry European consumers. The next day it emerged that an anonymous group known as "the Lincolnshire loppers" had pulled up a demonstration plot on the eve of the country's biggest serials show. Did the loppers, those latterday luddites, have the royal seal of approval, asked the papers. Speculation and denials from Kensington Palace ensued. In the month since then, things have really just become more frantic.

Maybe it's the late summer weather or the poor showing in the World Cup, but all of a sudden, the UK direct action scene has been seized with a fit of gardening, that most English of pastimes. Unlike our US cousins who are positively swamped with mutant corn, soy and rape but are leaving it alone, the English activists' favourite summer game has become "hunt the gene fields."

There are currently 300 sites licensed for the deliberate release of genetically engineered plants in the UK. They range from small plots of strawberries the size of a city yard to many acres of genetically suspect rape. Currently, 13 companies are preparing over 100 test sites for colonization. So far around 25 have been set upon with broomsticks, sickles and weeding gloves.

Over 77 percent of the UK wants genetically engineered food banned. Over 90 percent want to be able to choose not to eat it. English Nature, the government's own countryside agency wants a moratorium on it. As do the Scottish and Welsh countryside councils, English Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; even the Country Landowners Association is upset.

The kings of genetic engineering are American corporations. Monsanto, now miraculously cleansed of any association with PCBs and Agent Orange, is worth close to \$100 billion and is still buying up seed companies furiously. It has purchased seed distribution facilities in four continents from Cargill, the world's largest seed carrier, and now reckons itself to control 10 percent of world food production. DuPont, one of the world's top five companies, also has substantial biotech holdings and just announced that it will sell Conoco for \$22 billion in order to up its investment in our genetically-engineered future.

Resistance to the new corporate version of nature has become well practiced on this side of the Atlantic. In contrast, barely a whisper has been raised in the land of Disney and McDonald's where it all emanates from. Europe's big wilderness areas are already gone and so the invasion of what Jerry Mander calls "the genetic wilderness" hits harder. When the first ships of genetic soy reached our shores in 1996, Greenpeace blockaded them. A week later, Earth First!ers and striking dockers occupied the unloading cranes. A few weeks later still, protesters (dubbed "biosabs" by the press) entered the compound where the GE soy was stored and daubed red X's for "genetic Xperiment" on some of the silos. The silos contained "a dangerous contaminant," explained the activists' press release, and safety experts tried to work out what had been

added to the soy for a week. The answer of course was in the genes.

Fast forward two years and many actions later and there are currently around 20 autonomous anti-biotech groups in the UK, excluding the hundreds of local Women's Institutes, Greenpeace branches and Friends of the Earth groups. It's estimated that new genetiX groups (spot the X—it has become the trademark of anti-GE campaigners) are being established at the rate of two a week.

"Our genes are incorporated into approximately 19-million acres around the world, covering an

it became known, is probably the most popular protest site to date. Not a critical word was uttered about the site by anyone locally or in the national press, and even Novartis welcomed the fact that "these young people are clearly interested in biotechnology." Not surprisingly, eviction only took three weeks to secure, but by then, the test site had been well and truly destroyed.

In Scotland, Fife Earth First! has brought a distinctly nationalist edge to the gene debate by publicly declaring its intention to make Scotland a GE-free zone. Scotland currently has up to 50 release sites, the first of which was pulled up by 50 local people in full gaze of police. The rape crop had been scythed a few days earlier by five people, including a local organic farmer and a well known author. A few months later an X appeared in a field of rape near Aberdeen, invalidating another test. Two further fields near Edinburgh have since received the same treatment. Fife EF! has notoriously adapted the widely used X of the Saltire or flag of St. Andrew, the national emblem, much to the amusement of the Scottish press.

Not surprisingly, the increasing number of nighttime raids has led biotech companies to call for greater secrecy and protection. Every crop destroyed can set research back up to five years, and damages are currently estimated at around \$25,000 per decontamination. The accusation of "ecoterrorism" has been leveled at activists, and Monsanto has dubbed us "scientific hooligans." "Luddites," meant as a term of abuse, is also coming into vogue. Partly in response and also in a robust move to widen the

number of folks involved, the latest weeding initiative, known as Genetix snowball, has countered many of these charges.

Genetix snowball is based on a very simple multiplier effect: One person pulls up a few GE crops in a very open way; they bag them up in biohazard bags and then get arrested for an insignificant amount of criminal damage. They in turn incite two further people to copy them, who each incite two more and so on. Two snowball visits have occurred since the campaign was launched on July 4th (Independence from American Corporations day). It remains to be seen whether the snowball will gather momentum into a mass movement, but so far the actions have included a music teacher, a local solicitor and a furniture maker—hardly the stuff of ecoterrorism! Activists have high hopes to export the snowball, first to other European countries and maybe even back across the pond to the US biotech empire itself.

It may be at the end of the day that Europe can stay GE-free, but unless resistance spreads there is still the rest of the world to lose. In truth, who gives a hoot if the next king of England is on our side—he sits on a small island and is no longer the emperor of the whole world. In the age of globalisation what matters is whether fellow activists in the heart of the new global empire are on our side and striking at the thrones of the corporations. It's not difficult. Europe, Asia, Australia have started the genetiX snowball rolling. Faced with the end of nature itself, isn't it time a few Yanks joined in?

To keep up to date with GE activism or get inspiration for a bit of your own, subscribe to the GenetiX Update from the Genetic Engineering Network, POB 9656, London N4 7JY, UK (\$10 donation); +44 181 374 9516; genetics@gn.apc.org. Copies of the update can be found on the GEN website <http://www.dmac.co.uk/GEN>, while pictures and reports of actions as well as other X-files are hosted by Super Heroes Against Genetics at <http://www.envirolink.org/orgs/shag>.



Scything a genetically engineered food test site in England

area larger than Switzerland and the Netherlands combined. Can Europe at this point really resist?" says Tom McDermott, head of Monsanto's public affairs in Europe.

While Monsanto plays out a touchy, feely, call-out-helpline publicity campaign, it's this unguarded Monsanto comment that is most telling. The gene activists are clearly winning the battle of ideas, but the biotech barons are still striding ahead in terms of sheer acreage. In the UK, as in the States, genetic engineering has arrived as the latest and most deadly weapon in an ongoing economic battle against small farms and the countryside. Thankfully, the UK has a well-established history of resistance to industrial agriculture. In the early 19th century, whole swathes of southern and western England rose in revolt against the introduction of mechanised farming. Inspired by the northern Luddites, farmworkers took the mythical Captain Swing as their leader and broke machinery in his name. They were working in the tradition of enclosure riots stretching back to the Middle Ages where the peasantry fought to retain common land. Today with the enclosure of the genetic commons, the different campaigns against GE are returning to the fields again.

In Totness in Devon, for example, one field was visited by 600 local people, some of whom closed their shops to make the trip. The field of GE maize is within pollination distance of the country's largest organic farm, where corn is grown. Under threat of losing his organic status, the effected farmer and local campaigners took the government to court. As I write, the verdict is awaited, and hundreds of very itchy hands are ready to pull up the offending crop.

In Norfolk, home of the second-highest concentration of release sites, activists established a land squat, complete with permaculture gardens, on a GE sugar beet plot. The beets, grown by Swiss biotech monster Novartis, had been uprooted a few nights earlier by errant pixies. The "crop squat," as

photo by Nick Cobbing



Winona LaDuke

BY LACEY PHILLABAUM

Few people in the environmental movement have the breadth and depth of experience as does Winona LaDuke, who's accomplishments include sitting on the board of Greenpeace, garnering *Time* magazine's recognition as one of America's 50 most promising leaders under 40 and running as vice president on Ralph Nader's presidential ticket. Through it all, Winona has remained a dedicated grassroots activist with a strong sense of her place, the White Earth reservation in Minnesota. Her most recent work with the White Earth Land Recovery Project focuses on reclaiming the Anishinaabe White Earth reservation. In addition, she is an active co-chair of the Indigenous Women's Network. This broad spectrum of experience qualifies Winona as one of the most insightful thinkers moving between the environmental and environmental justice movements. The *Earth First! Journal* recently had a chance to talk with her about the relationship between the two.

EFIJ: How do you think the radical environmental movement and the environmental justice movement should work together? What do you think radical environmentalists bring to the table that is valuable, and what do you think the environmental justice movement brings?

Winona: I think that some of the philosophy of not compromising is a welcome addition to the environmental struggle because it resonates with the Native community. I think that the spirit of a lot of young people is really encouraging, as well I think that learning to observe and listen before one acts is probably a good thing to learn, and you can learn that from the Native community, kind of just a longer-term perspective... The Native community has been around for thousands of years, and we kind of see the present as a small piece of a continuum...

EFIJ: One particular question I had was about your experience with civil disobedience. You've done lock-down actions. Did you think that was an effective tactic?

Winona: I am someone who is not wedded to a tactic. I think that it is important to be strategic in which tactics you use, to look where you are going and to be fleet enough to be able to distinguish which is the correct one at the correct time. So direct action is one tactic. I am someone who litigates, who does seemingly endless paperwork, who does hearings, who goes to Congress, who beseeches my tribal council and cajoles people and does press work and makes the alternative, you know, by illustrating sustainable forestry practices. I think that knowing what you need when is the key, is absolutely key to winning the struggle.

EFIJ: Do you think that Earth First! is too wedded to direct action civil disobedience as a tactic?

Winona: Yeah, I do sometimes. I think that it is an important part of the political struggle. I think that you have to be flexible enough.

EFIJ: We just ran an article by Dennis Martinez about Native fire regimes. What is your vision of sustainable forestry in your region?

Winona: We have done some burning. We have done a lot of planting. We harvest maple syrup. We operate a 3,400-tap maple sugar bush so we harvest the sap from the trees, and we do cut. We only selectively cut. We use horses. We are looking at doing some green certification.

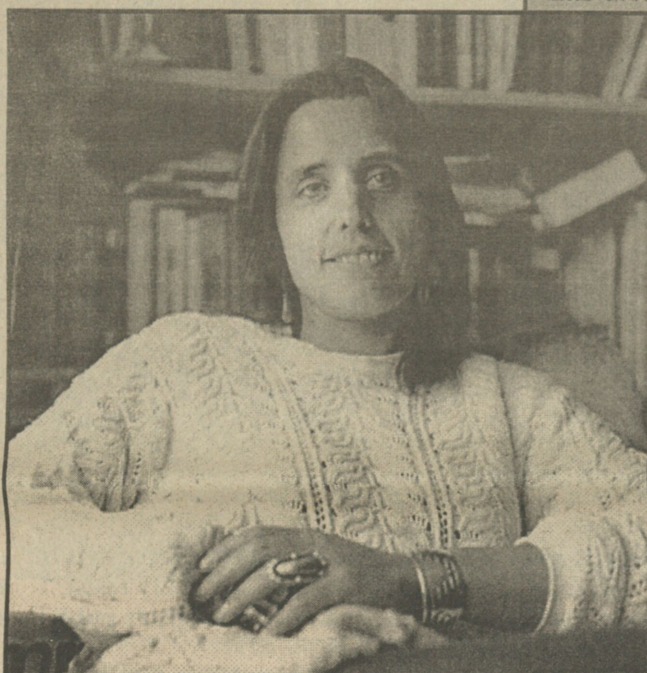
EFIJ: You talk a lot about the environmental movement needing to recognize the trappings of privilege that accompany the movement. Can you give some examples of that and also what your vision is of a relationship between the environmental movement and the Native community?

Winona: You know the environmental movement comes from industrial culture, and it is a response of people who are born in industrial culture who reject it. And it is a good thing, but... people carry that

colonialism with them and that is what they have to deconstruct. That colonialism is basically, "We know best." So the best examples of it are quite often around subsistence harvesting, whether it is trapping or hunting or just how we live.

You know... old people talk to you and... tell you that we are the same thing as beaver. We are those animals. We are related to them, and we come back as them. That is the cycle of life. That is the relationship between them and so you treat everything with respect, but you understand that they are our relatives. The Creator gave us those animals to eat, and next time around we will probably be eaten. I guess it is recognizing that a lot of people who have been here for a really long time have a cultural practice that is sustainable.

A lot of the ideas that come out



Winona LaDuke and her new book, *Last Standing Woman*

today are a result of the petroleum economy. We have so much leisure time that is a different kind of leisure time than traditional people have, but it is a leisure time where we think about some of these different aspects of philosophy, instead of realizing that a lot of things are more practical when you just live them than think about them. An example of it is the Sierra Club's debate... What gave these basically white people the right to talk about immigration, who should come and who should not? Who is going to have the courage to talk about the fact that American foreign policy is about making refugees? And most of those people would rather be in their own country in their own culture, where their own old people were buried, with some kind of dignity than coming over here and being the bottom of the barrel in the United States... That kind of arrogance is so problematic in the movement. Obviously, a lot of Earth First! is not comprised of that...

Don't become an island of political correctness. It is impossible to do work if you are so correct. Be fluid enough to be able to talk and engage.

EFIJ: One of the things that is difficult is that environmentalists themselves don't have a sustainable practice, and it can't just comprise emulating those practices from Natives. So there is not a real vision of what this new practice is. What do you see as being the next healthy step down the path of this relationship that environmentalists and Natives should craft?

Winona: I think building constructive models is an important thing. I am looking at this All Consuming Passion, the New Road Map Foundation. It is quite interesting. They are about decreasing consumerism...

EFIJ: What is the New Road Map Foundation?

Winona: They talk about levels of consumption,

that today Americans are four-and-a-half-times richer than their great grandparents, they own twice as many cars and drive two-and-a-half times as far... I think building something constructive is really important because people believe that change is possible if they see that change is made...

EFIJ: Another thing that comes into play here is spirituality. In a lot of campaigns where Earth First!ers work with Natives spirituality has played a big role. What do you think the role of spirituality should be in the environmental movement and when Natives and environmentalists work together?

Winona: I think that spiritual practice is the wellspring of all work... Getting in touch with that is a really important part of being able to have vision, finding your niche and working well. I think that spirituality is absolutely essential to political work, especially Earth-based work. Now I am not in charge of what religion everyone is or what form

that spiritual practice takes. I think that being careful in relation to the Native community is really important because with Native people obviously there is a lot of discussion about how much is appropriated or misconstrued that is ours. And it is disrespectful when someone takes something and adapts it. It's like going to a synagogue and taking little bits out of the synagogue and doing it your own way. Orthodox Jews would be really, really offended by that, and you should consider that Native people are similar. You know the Native community is not a radical community. We are the most conservative community in the

country... When our community makes decisions we are considering the impact on the seventh generation from now. That is conservative thinking...

EFIJ: You just visited the Buffalo Nations campaign. What did you think of it?

Winona: It's really courageous. Obviously I am supportive of people who have a commitment to those buffalo. I love that. It is so right, the right thing to do. It's about making things right and restoring relationships. Part of the work that I am doing with Rosalie Little Thunder and others is the idea of how do you restore buffalo. What is going to happen in seven years when the Yellowstone herd is back to the size it was two years ago? Where are those buffalo going to go? We need to look at the long term, not only trying to stop the slaughter. We are interested in the longer-term question of increasing the size of Yellowstone, putting buffalo in other parklands, restoring buffalo to Native communities, restoring buffalo in the prairies.

EFIJ: You used to work with the Greenpeace board. A lot of people called foul when they cut their toxic campaign and said it was a matter of environmental racism. That campaign was so involved with communities of color and for them to cut it was really hard on a lot of people. Do you see it that way or not?

Winona: I do. I think that the direction Greenpeace took was really a shift directed not by the political movements in the United States. It was directed by political agendas in Europe, and I don't think that is how political work should be done. I disagreed with it when I sat on the board and that's why I am not on the board now. I think it was a substantial departure from where the organization should have been. As a political activist, I am someone who worked with Greenpeace for five years. And I might work with them again, but I never held my breath that Greenpeace was going to save my community. That is my responsibility. Greenpeace was a tool, a process through which to do that political work, and now that is not really open to us. So we will find other ways to do it.

EFIJ: Anything else you want to say to Earth First?

Winona: Continue doing the level of work you do. Be thoughtful. Keep long-term perspective... Be thoughtful about strategy. Don't slash your wrists. Don't be motivated by self hatred, always be motivated by love. Be compassionate because compassion and love is what we have that General Electric doesn't, Weyerhaeuser doesn't. That is our strength...

Owyhee Canyonlands or Air Force Bombing Range?

BY CRAIG GEHRKE

Those who treasure the serenity and solitude of wild land suffered a major disappointment last month. Idaho Senators Dirk Kempthorne and Larry Craig aggressively and successfully advocated for Kempthorne's Defense Authorization bill, which in part allows the Air Force to use the spectacular Owyhee Canyonlands of southwest Idaho, eastern Oregon and northern Nevada as a bombing range. Though the Senators may think this fight is over, outside of Congress it has just begun.

The Owyhees are characterized by high rolling plateaus incised by deep, sheer-walled river canyons and mountains dominated by juniper woodlands and grasslands. Sprawling across an area twice the size of Yellowstone National Park, the Owyhee region is one of the most biologically rich and diverse high desert areas in the country. Twenty-four Wilderness Study Areas and 350 miles of candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers are found in the canyonlands. One of the nation's largest populations of California bighorn sheep resides in the Owyhees, providing the sole source of transplant stock for reestablishment efforts in nine Western states. Peregrine falcon, cougar, bobcat, sage grouse and redband trout are found here, as is one of Idaho's healthiest pronghorn populations. Recreational use of the Owyhee Canyonlands continues to grow as more and more rafters try their hand at running the spectacular Bruneau, Owyhee and Jarbidge Rivers. Nearly 500 archeological sites up to 5,000 years

The battle to provide greater protection to the wildlife and sites sacred to the Shoshone-Paiute tribe within the canyonlands is not over. Those who value wild country should ask some tough questions about the assertions made by Senators Craig and Kempthorne in this debate. For example they state that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) selected the Juniper Butte target site for the bombing range, but the BLM actually withheld its support pending, among other things, a commitment from the Air Force to limit military flights over sensitive areas and resolution of outstanding issues with the Shoshone-Paiute. Unfortunately, Senator Kempthorne inserted language in the Defense Authorization bill giving the Air Force everything it wanted and virtually ignoring every issue the BLM raised. Faced with an "all or next to nothing" situation, the BLM and the Interior Department essentially caved in on nearly every single commitment they sought and signed a shotgun agreement with the Air Force.

The agreement applies altitude restrictions to 13 percent of sensitive areas or less than one-third of the candidate wilderness and wildlife habitat areas the BLM originally sought to protect. Similarly, the agreement protects less than one-third of the candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers in the canyonlands that the BLM sought to protect. The agreement also opens up the Little Jacks Creek Wilderness Study Area—the only Wilderness Study Area not subjected to military training overflights in southwest Idaho. And even when protections for certain areas are provided on paper, it is difficult to imagine how the activities of low-flying jets can be properly monitored and controlled.

As more hard questions were asked about why he buried this military withdrawal of public lands in the voluminous defense bill, Senator Kempthorne took to waving around the public comment record on the proposed bombing range, stating that years of hearings and discussions had already taken place. But Senator Kempthorne should have read that comment record. It shows that Idaho citizens oppose the bombing range by a margin of six to one. Likewise,



Five thousand year old warriors attacked by the Air Force

old have been identified in the canyonlands, many of which are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Many sites throughout the Owyhees are still used for religious ceremonies.

Since the mid-1980s, the military has relentlessly pursued a plan to turn the Owyhee Canyonlands into a supersonic combat range. The latest proposal would allow thousands of low-level subsonic and supersonic flights of fighter jets and heavy bombers over the Owyhees. The Air Force would scatter thousands of bundles of radar-jamming chaff and burning flares over the region and build 30 radar- and laser-guided emitter sites to guide training aircraft. But the Air Force has never established that there is a need for additional training facilities in Idaho. To the contrary, two separate government reports found that such a range would be redundant with existing Air Force assets and would duplicate facilities already available in Idaho, Utah and Nevada.

During the recent attempt to protect the Owyhees from this military invasion, Senators Harry Reid, Ron Wyden and Daniel Inouye fought to remove Kempthorne's provisions from the Defense Authorization bill. Those efforts narrowly lost on a 49 to 44 vote.

Kempthorne and Craig claim the Air Force has agreed to "dramatic reductions" in military flight operations. But the environmental impact statement for the proposed bombing range clearly calls for an increase in the number of flight operations, sonic booms, radar-jamming aluminum chaff and flares, and an increase in the number of nighttime operations.

The future generations of all species deserve the same opportunity we have to enjoy the spectacular beauty, wildness and solitude of the Owyhee Canyonlands. It is a real shame that for the time being, the Senate has decided to hand over to the military one of Idaho's finest natural resources for a bombing range. We hope and trust that the time is not too distant that the Congress comes to its senses and reverses course on this bad policy.

For more information contact The Wilderness Society, 413 W. Idaho St. #102, Boise, ID 83702; (208) 343-8153, craig.gehrke@tw.org.



The Owyhee Canyonlands

Sacred Medicine Mt. or Geothermal Plant?

BY GLORIA PICCADILLY

On the border of the Klamath and Modoc National Forests, near the Lava Beds National Monument in northeast California, there is a place of peace known as Medicine Lake. It is a sacred site where the Pit River, Klamath/Modoc and Shasta tribes have gathered for over 10,000 years in ceremonies for peace and healing. Mountains of spectacular black obsidian surround the lake. It is a wild, high-elevation wonderland, home to martens, bald eagles, Northern spotted owls, goshawks and ospreys. Unfortunately, the geothermal volcanic activity that led to the unique formation of the Medicine Lake highlands may also be its doom. Plans to build geothermal power plants threaten to destroy the wild and healing qualities of this area.

Two giant energy corporations, CalPine and CalEnergy, are proposing to build power plants in a roadless area only one and a half miles from Medicine Lake. They plan to drill several wells 6,000 feet into the earth to feed the power plants that will be from 10 to 18 acres in size and over 90-feet tall. Pipelines three-feet high would run across the ground for 24 miles, creating a hot cement wall blocking wildlife from critical habitat in the middle of a wilderness. The screeching drone of the turbines would shatter the stillness of the land for miles around, running 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And this is only the beginning.

Slyly enough, the energy corporations are keeping the capacity for each power plant under federal regulation levels. They plan to build two plants but are putting in a power line capable of transferring six plants' worth. By doing this, it is difficult to evaluate the cumulative impacts of these projects. The plants would produce industrial air pollution and arsenic-laden waste, severely affecting the water quality of the area. The project would destroy several miles of habitat for threatened or sensitive species and nesting migratory birds. Yet another Native spiritual site would be destroyed in the name of power and greed.

While selling the projects as "green energy," the corporations, the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hide or ignore information proving the environmental effects of these projects will be devastating. The Environmental Impact Statement fails to address many of the cumulative impacts from the projects. The USFS has received thousands of letters in opposition to these projects, and the local community is adamantly opposed to it.

The Seventh Generation Fund is hosting the annual "Indigenous Environmental Network Protecting Mother Earth Conference" August 2-5. Please come to show your support for keeping Medicine Lake wild! Contact the Seventh Generation Fund, POB 4569, Arcata, CA 95518; (707) 825-7640. Help save Medicine Lake by writing a letter to the USFS or BLM asking them to stop the geothermal power projects and choose the no action alternative. Tell them to stop the abuse of Native American sacred lands, threatened species and roadless areas. Be ready to come to Medicine Lake and take a stand to peacefully defend sacred land! Send your comments to the USFS/BLM: Randall Sharp, USFS/BLM, 800 W. 12th St., Alturas, CA 96101; (530) 233-5811. For campaign support contact the Klamath Forest Alliance at POB 820, Etna, CA, 96032; (530) 467-5405.

RRR Round Up!

BY FROG AND FRIENDS

After we fixed the flat tire on my rusty, crusty Subaru, our band of happy, raged folk piled in and headed out of Roseburg, Oregon. We were finally on our way to the 1998 Round River Rendezvous at Twin Lakes in the Umpqua National Forest, woo-hoo! The narrow gravel road curved up and up, and the "Whoa, slow down!" signs increased so we knew we were on the right road. Suddenly the driver came to a stop; we weren't there yet, but we were paralyzed at the sight of three snow-capped peaks on the horizon. The view was incredible and only slightly riddled with clearcuts. I was in awe from that moment on.

Upon stepping out of the car, we were greeted by pure, fresh mountain air. We shouldered our packs and headed up the trail until we heard, "Hey, wait!" We turned to see familiar faces, along with an array of t-shirts, sign-up sheets, maps and yippee!, a mound of free condoms! We were oriented, signed up and sent on our way. "Welcome to Cascadia; have a great time!"

As we began our ascent up the trail, we drifted into a state of bewilderment. The trees were so, so... big. Moss and lichen clinging to the branches, wildflowers busting through the undergrowth, ferns everywhere. The smell of the life-cycle of an old-growth forest overwhelmed us—new buds and decomposition. Even our ears were delighted by the sounds of frogs and songbirds singing together.

The trail led us up to the "mellow fire," a cliff with an outlook even more impressive than the one on the road. After passing "Camp Kaczynski" (more often referred to as "Club Ted"), we reached the main circle nestled in the tree line of a natural meadow where wild iris bloomed freely. Eventually we reached a sign; left to the "Riff-Raff" camp and

further to "Rowdy Ridge," right to the Oregon and Wild Rockies camps and the lakes.

To the lakes!—across a small wooden footbridge and a wetland of vibrant camas flowers. The sunlight danced across the shimmering blue-green waters, a few fallen trees floated on the surface, a fish jumped. Wow.



The Bear Paw timber sale is typical of the beautiful Umpqua forest.

We made camp high upon the ridge above the lake only to discover a second smaller lake far below, more enticing than the first. The waters were crystal clear. From our perch, we could see large bottom feeders sliding in and out of the shadows. An osprey dove in and out of the water, carrying a fish away in its talons every time. The dark was coming on, and we longed to hunt down our friends and tackle them with affection. And so we did—at the "rowdy fire."

The evenings blended into a web of excited faces and a jumble of laughter, drinking, shenanigans and music. Amoebas coexisted with star-gazers, romping and wrestling coexisted with sitting and conversation. Beer coexisted with tequila! We witnessed the movement's first fantastic, furious flogging! The dancing never ended, as well as the howls

of humans and dogs! The moon grew stronger as the nights went on, and the parties just got crazier.

Awakened early by the brilliance of the morning sun, we stumbled out of bed. Sweet smells guided us to the community kitchen for a hot breakfast. Hey!, they tricked us by putting the morning circle right next to the kitchen. Damn! Snagged.

The morning circles were filled with so many people (dogs too). There must have been over 100 (people, not dogs). The crowd was diverse—US, UK, Canada, eh? The days were filled with activities: workshops, discussions, puppet making, EF! history, women's circles. And we couldn't possibly forget the first annual Neanderthal Olympics. As with many good traditions, it got started with a flop/bang, but it sure was great to see a little friendly bioregional rivalry. There was even some good old geezers versus the young pups competition.

We discussed the location of the next Round River Rendezvous and the next Activist (Organizers) Conference. Katúah (Southern Appalachia) and the Gila (New Mexico) were discussed as potential sites for the RRR. After some intense lobbying, the Gila won out. As a consolation, the Activist Conference was offered to Katúah. They're considering it. If they want to wait for a rendezvous, a Baja committee is ready to commit to the next Activist Conference.

By afternoon, we would find our way to rocks by the lake. The weather was just hot enough, and the lake was just cool enough. There you would find canoes and logs and friends—plenty of things to play on.

In the late afternoons, folks made their way up to an overlook above the lakes. The fog would ever-so-slowly fill the valley up to our feet. It was like floating in the clouds or drifting on the ocean on the bow of a ship. Just at sunset, the fog would lift to provide a brief, clear glimpse of the horizon for all those who made the hike.

Saturday night, we had a rock concert. Yes, it's true—a rock concert in the woods. Casey Neill gave us an inspired show, followed by ¡TCHKUNG!. Now, if you have ever seen ¡TCHKUNG!, you won't soon forget it. If the drums don't get you, the fire eaters will! And then, of course, came the gunfire. Yowl! What a show.

Sunday was the performer's rally. We had a host of players including Robert Hoyt, Darryl Cherney, Peg Millett, Timothy Hull, Dennis Fritzinger, Danny Dollinger, Burl, Megan, Dana Lyons, Slugthang, pies in the face, and the rudest medley ever heard at an RRR, and that is saying something.

By Monday, we were out of the lakes and back in action...

FREAKS AND FIREWORKS (Mix with CAUTION)

BY JOSH LAUGHLIN

After poking around the Umpqua's most hideous pending timber sales, looking for the exact target of this year's post RRR action, I decided to hop out of the car and head east rather than back to the rondee site. And hell, it was just after 4:30, right when the Art and Revolution parade was to descend upon the annual Fourth of July picnic on the shores of Diamond Lake, at the base of snow-capped Mt. Bailey.

I stuck out my thumb hoping to flag down some lagging riff-raff, or even a car of eager beavers ready to barbecue and celebrate Independence Day. A Pontiac sedan loaded with young folks screeched off the shoulder. They opened the door with big smiles and handed me an icy Michelob Lite Ice Dry. Excellent—I was parched and didn't want to miss the parade.

Discovering that they were liquored-up Roseburgers in their early 20s headed out to the lake-side bash, I opted to conceal my identity. Just a few days earlier, a major fax campaign had been conducted in Roseburg notifying most business owners that "a group called Earth First, anti timber people, will be coming down river starting July 1, 1998, with the intention of shoplifting and creating havoc wherever they can. Please be warned that a lot of these people will be dressed hippie with long hair, etc. But some will not... If we should spot any of these people we are to call the sheriff office at..."

I just giggled along with their crude comments, threw a few cold ones back, pretended I was headed to the rager and hoped I hadn't missed the parade.

Exiting the car at the site and ditching my new associates, I scanned the hundreds of oiled-up bodies beached on the shores, cooking weenies and slurping down silver bullets. Nowhere in sight was any hint of commotion, puppets, marching bands or the works of Art and Revolution. I struck up some



An Earth First! Fourth of July

conversations as though I was there celebrating Independence Day. "So, was there some kind of parade around here today," I asked in hopes of hearing an affirmative response. No one had heard of a parade coming through.

Assuring myself that I hadn't missed it, I made my way to the rowdy college crew circling around an

iced-down keg and bartered for an endless cup of Bud Lite. Finally the 70-person performance came, armed with snare drums, trumpets, flutes, giant paper mache puppets, swimming salmon and face paint. Suddenly, beer cups were ignored, conversations quieted and all eyes were on the parade, which hoped to raise awareness about the roadless area behind the ridge riddled by timber sales.

Stepping back as the outsider listening to reactions was humorous. "Those are the people that don't like beer," said one Roseburger. "Fuckin' tree huggers go home," said another. It started to get heated and sweaty when one drunk got in the face of our lead snare drummer and barked, "You build your house out of wood. You wipe your ass with toilet paper, don't you?" The situation cooled when, out of the blue, another drunk chimed in, "Hey cool it, these people aren't against you. They're against the government."

The parade progressed. The 30-minute walk ended back on the asphalt with the company of 20 law enforcement officers, sheriffs and government workers. An en-core of bodies bouncing around to Casey Neill's "Dancing on the Ruins" closed the parade, giving our audience an unforgettable free performance. Looking back at Mt. Bailey and the vast roadless area surrounding it gave me hope that our dialogue and leafleting had saturated the minds of the uneducated. It was a wonderful Fourth of July.

Viva La Paz!

BY EL SUBWAY

The 18,000-acre Mt. Bailey Roadless Area in the Umpqua National Forest is one of the wildest unprotected places left in Oregon. On any given day, you may hear the endangered pileated woodpecker and bald eagle. At night, spotted owls hoot, packs of coyotes yap in the distance, and black bears, herds of elk, martens and bobcats cruise the woods.

But the end of this pristine area may be just around the corner. Logging and intensive roadbuilding have already begun at Mt. Bailey. Majestic Douglas firs, red firs, mountain hemlocks, white pines and sugar pines, many of which started growing before the European invasion of the continent, are slated for destruction.

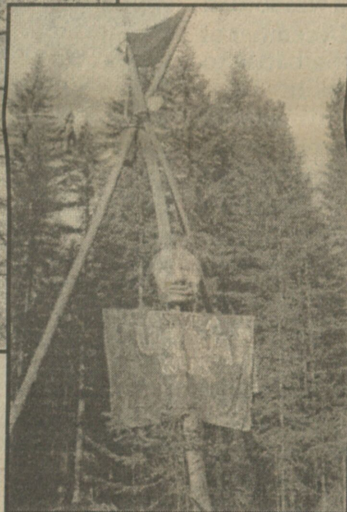
The area is adjacent to the Mt. Thielsen Wilderness to the east and Crater Lake National Park to the south. Under the Salvage Rider, Umpqua Forest Supervisor Don Otsby authorized numerous sales in

One women's affinity group, the Maids of Mayhem, spray-painted the nearby town of Roseburg up and down with pro-forest and anti-logging slogans, stirring up both ire and public awareness in the hometown of Roseburg Forest Products. Two other road blockades, both lockdowns to gates leading to the active sales, were set up and maintained. One blockade was abandoned by Wednesday, but the other continued through the week, its inhabitants facing verbal assaults from irate Freddie's and overheated forest workers.

More work started on La PAZ later in the week. Fewer numbers of activists at the site compelled Subcommandantes Orca and Roadrunner to cry, "If we build it, they will come." A half dozen of us got to work

building a third tripod and improving the tripod structures, adding vertical and horizontal support beams upon which two triangular platforms sat, each capable of holding 20 people. The whole creation would have made the originators of the forest defense tripod beam with pride.

According to Subcommandante Orca, "The whole structure looks like



photos by Peter Sarracino

the Mt. Bailey Roadless Area, all were exempted from legal challenges.

After this year's EF! Round River Rendezvous, a group of Earth First!ers, who refuse to let the vast wildland fall to the chainsaw and the road grater, cried "Basta!" and reclaimed the road leading to the Bear Paw timber sale. The mile-and-a-half-long blockade, known as the Paw Autonomous Zone (La PAZ), was a series of six-foot-high slash piles, rock walls and three giant tripods supporting an impressive two-story platform 30-feet off the ground.

La PAZ gets its name from two of four major timber sales in the Diamond Lake district that would cut over 26 million board feet of timber. The sales were bought by Boise Cascade, Superior Lumber and Scott Timber, the purchasing arm of Roseburg Forest Products. Many miles of roads have already been built for the Paw Chopper and Bear Paw sales. Logging is well under way in the Paw Chopper sale, which plans to rip four million board feet of timber out of this unentered forest, despite the fact that the US Fish and Wildlife Service discovered an endangered wolverine den was less than 10 miles from the area this past winter. The La PAZ blockade completely cut off access to the Bear Paw sale, which promises 3.5 million board feet for its destroyers.

The story of La PAZ began at 3:00 a.m. on July 6, when 130 determined EF!ers ripe from the rendezvous took the road. (Our caravan of activists took the Forest Service by surprise before they could declare a closure and intervene.) One Freddie posted on the road was seen fleeing the scene as waves of people spilled out of their vehicles with pick axes, shovels and bow saws in tow and began hauling fallen trees and hurling boulders onto the road.

Working assiduously in small affinity groups, and humming along while Dragonfly sang "Fuck Shit Up/Don't Get Caught" and "Depave!," it took us less than three hours to transform a stretch of barren gravel road into the humble beginnings of La PAZ.

As the sun came up, two giant tripods were occupied, and the affinity groups had moved onto other work, piling slash on other major logging roads and playing cat and mouse with loggers and Freddie's in the active units.

that fortress in the original King Kong film that the villagers built to protect themselves from the big ape. It's awesome!" But tragedy befell La PAZ on July 16. At 5:30 a.m., over 25 Freddie's and Douglas County sheriffs assembled, bringing in the heavy equipment that signaled the end of the blockade. With little fanfare, the Freddie's politely picked (with picks and sledgehammers) people out of their lockdowns and plucked other activists out of their tripods, depositing them across the "crime scene" line (not quite a closure, but in effect the same thing). Surprisingly, no arrests were made by the unusually friendly Freddie's. Citations were not even issued. As soon as everyone was cleared from the blockade, the earth-destroyers took over, tearing down the structures that we had put so much sweat into.

La PAZ is just the beginning of our ongoing direct action campaign to save the unprotected Mt. Bailey Roadless Area. Already, the blockade has drawn national attention. The assistant chief of the US Forest Service, Robert Roslin, has contacted local environmentalists wanting to know why EF! was involved. When informed of the wolverine discovery in the area, he expressed surprise and pledged to look into the matter further.

La PAZ was built and maintained to protect areas in the Paw timber sales, which are only the first incursions of the logging assault on the Mt. Bailey Roadless Area. Under the Northwest Forest Plan, this fragile upper elevation ecosystem is ripe for logging, as it all falls as matrix land under Clinton's plan. La PAZ needs more activists to join the resistance to the destruction of the Mt. Bailey Roadless Area. To get involved contact Southern Willamette EF! at POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 343-7305; swef@efn.org. Viva La PAZ!

Frontlines

Idaho Critical Mass

Maybe it was the over 100 degree heat that got people fired up, or maybe it was watching Idaho Congressman Helen "kill the salmon" Chenoweth ride horseback in Boise's Fourth of July parade. Maybe people were just plain mad about the Boise City Council's support of a dismount zone in the downtown core, forcing bicyclists, skateboarders and inline skaters into the already car-ridden streets. Whatever the reason, close to 200 protesters, young and old, rallied at city hall and then took to the streets in a Critical Mass bike ride in downtown Boise, Idaho, on July 8.

For an hour, the protesters led the surprised Boise police (the whole force) all over the streets, mucking up rush hour traffic, standing in intersections, chanting and all around having a rowdy good time. Finally, the cops got the spirit too. They cordoned off whole downtown streets, ensuring rush hour traffic would be hell and headline news on every TV station. The cops then tried to round up the spirited group with a paddy wagon. But the citizens decided they would rather end the festivities with a party than in handcuffs. Conveniently, just blocks away, about 2,000 of Boise's finest yuppies were enjoying the free public gathering "Alive after 5" (aka beer and outdoor music) and relaxing from their hard day's work. The protesters shook off police and vanished into the yuppie-fest, where they finished the evening in constructive conversation about current events, talked to reporters and cooled off in the plaza fountain.

Katuah EF!/Action at Sunshine Timber Sale

Activists from all over Southern Appalachia gathered at the Shinbone Basin in North Carolina's Pisgah National Forest for Katuah EF!'s traditional solstice campout in June. Coincidentally, the Forest Disservice was having a clearing sale, and KEF! thought it only proper to say "howdy!"

The Bryant & Young Lumber company is "daylighting" a four-unit sale on 2,366 acres adjoining Shinbone Creek and the Nolichucky River gorge, one of the steepest in the Southeast. Daylighting is the process of clearcutting a wide swath along winding logging roads—100 to 150 feet on either side. The take is mostly poplar, oak, hemlock and white pine. Erosion of the steep banks along the logging roads has become a serious problem as the topsoil rapidly disappears. Almost a quarter of the sale is in designated bear habitat. Numerous contract violations have been documented, including slash piles in the streams, clogged and inadequate culverts, cutting outside boundaries, etc. Local responsibility for these violations rests firmly on the shoulders of Paul Bradley, the head forester in the district.

In protest of the sale, boulders, stumps and logs appeared in the road. Yarn was wrapped around all the marked trees in the area. The main log pile collapsed. And the skidder grew a covering of logs! After a fantastic dinner in the KEF! field kitchen and some more solstice celebration, a tripod was constructed in the middle of the road.

When law enforcement arrived the next morning, the activists demanded that Paul Bradley come and see the violations. Though he agreed to meet later to see the problems, he never came. After negotiations with the Forest Service, the sitter came down from the tripod and collected a citation. KEF! got out of Dodge before the Forest Service could get a gander at the mess in the sale. Very little logging was done that day.

Eagle Creek

Even the timber purchaser is ready for volume trade or a federal buy-back of the sale. Now the only obstacle is the US Forest Service.

BY SUE NACKONEY

It's hard to believe that the legacy of the Salvage Rider continues to haunt us today like the sequel to a bad nightmare. But the legacy is all too real for everyone struggling to stop the Eagle timber sale from destroying a precious and rare area of unlogged native forest near Portland, Oregon. Since the area was sold in the midnight hour of the Salvage Rider in December of 1996, we have waged a year-and-a-half-long battle to save Eagle Creek, a battle that is far from won.

The forest in the south fork of Eagle Creek is a magnificent place that deservedly inspires much dedication from the people who love it. Home to Western hemlock, Douglas fir, Noble fir, Western red cedar and Pacific silver fir, as well as rare mushrooms, it is also dispersal habitat for a pair of Northern spotted owls. Forest fires burned the area between 100 and 150 years ago, but some 250 to 500 year-old survivors remain.

The Forest Service's heinous plan is to remove 26.4 million board feet from 1,032 acres of native forest. One hundred and twenty-five acres will be two-stage clearcuts that will destroy a portion of the historic Old Baldy hiking trail. What's more, the sale will log 500 acres of a roadless area connected to the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness. All of this despite the watershed analysis' recommendations that only 10.3 million board feet can be removed sustainably over the next decade.

Central to the opposition to the sale is the fact that the 6,500 acre watershed is part of the drinking water supply for over 150,000 people in the Portland area. Logging and roadbuilding are known to degrade stream quality and exacerbate sedimentation. Massive stream sedimentation has already been caused throughout the Northwest over the past winters of heavy rains on logged slopes. Senator Ron Wyden, Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, City Councilman Erik Sten and the Mayor of Lake Oswego have expressed varying degrees of opposition to the sale over concerns about its impact on drinking water.

Still, the Forest Service has ignored all protest and allowed logging to begin in May of this year, a month ahead of schedule. This was during the rainiest month in recorded history and was done in total disregard of the Forest Service's own restriction designed to protect water quality in the area.

Lockdown at the Gate for Mother's Day

On Monday, May 11, the day after Mother's day, three activists celebrated their mother in their own way. That day, the forests at Eagle Creek were quiet for only the second time in the two weeks since logging had begun. Two people blockaded a gate in the misty early morning hours by locking their arms into a cement-filled barrel sunk into the road, while another activist held the gate closed with his arms locked into a lockbox.

Thirty people came to rally at the blockade and to call for an end to the logging. Loggers joined the crowd and engaged in friendly banter. The security guard "Spider" and his small, fluffy dog "Poopy" came roaring down the hill behind the blockade in an old truck that backfired blue exhaust. The loggers told us we'd better unlock because Spider had no brakes.

Ultimately, the Forest Service cut the gate to allow logging trucks through. The three blockaders unlocked after being cited and released. All three were charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct.

But the activists remained determined to stop the logging. On Monday, June 9, five people blocked the road to the active units by locking their arms to each other and into cement-filled barrels that were firmly secured to pipes cemented into the road.

The Forest Service's first move was to take out a barrel cemented into the road with no one locked to it. This allowed the trucks with the fellers and yarders to pass. But, the blockade continued to confound the law enforcement officers, who worked for over three hours cutting through the barrels. Fully-loaded log trucks were blocked from leaving the sale until 11:30 a.m.

When the five were finally cut free, they were taken to the Clackamas County jail and received felony charges of criminal mischief. Their charges continue to hang in the mysterious morass of the legal system—none have officially been charged but any could be hauled off to jail in the next three years if an arrest warrant is issued for them.



Not pleased with this breakfast club blockade, the Freddie's cut their gate open.

Backed By Ninety-Five Thousand Oregonians

As of June 10, over 20 environmental groups representing 95,000 Oregonians had called on the Forest Service to engage in public dialogue over whether logging at Eagle serves the best public interest. This demand was made in light of Vanport Manufacturing, the timber purchaser, stating to the Forest Service that it would consider trading for volume elsewhere if the Forest Service considers it in the best public interest. When activists met with Vanport's president, he also said he would consider a federal buy-back of the sale.

The city council of West Linn, which also gets water from the Clackamas watershed, just passed a resolution joining the environmental groups in asking for the Forest Service to engage in public dialogue. The council also asked the Forest Service to reassess the sale and to manage all the land in the watershed for water quality.

Yet Roberta Moltzen, supervisor of the Mt. Hood National Forest, and Bob Williams, Region Six Forester, have rejected our call for an open, public discussion of Eagle.

The fact that the Forest Service continues to ignore the public and destroy the values that we cherish is just another nail in the coffin of an agency out of control. As for the forest at Eagle Creek, we will keep on working to keep the chainsaws out of the roadless area. We are upholding our promise to those trees that they will soon join the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness in an unbroken sea of forest.

For more information contact the Cascadia Forest Alliance at POB 4946, Portland, OR 97208; (503) 241-4879.

Barton Springs Saved

Since long before there was a place called Austin, Texas, millions of gallons of water have flown from the Earth here, cold, clear and beautiful. The people indigenous to central Texas thought this spring was a sacred miracle created when a god split open the Earth with a rainbow. Then modern humans arrived, named this place Barton Springs and proceeded to undo the work of the gods.

Even early this century, people feared that there was danger ahead for the springs. Yet they continued to cut the huge old cedars, overgraze the land, and put in luxury housing and golf courses. By the 1970s, trouble had arrived, and a floodwater bypass was built to keep the now-polluted Barton Creek water out of Barton Springs pool. By the 1980s, the fight was on, with grassroots environmental groups facing off against an army of wealthy developers. In 1990, a multinational corporation named Freeport McMoran galvanized the community by threatening to develop 4,000 acres upstream from the springs. A strong effort by thousands of Austinites stopped this particular development several times during the 1990s.

In 1992, citizens raised the stakes by passing a strong growth control law known as the Save Our Springs ordinance. The law was attacked by developers, struck down in the courts and then reinstated upon appeal. Just this month, the state Supreme Court rejected the developers' last appeal, reaffirming the right of the community to protect the water. This was good news for the Barton Springs salamander, an endemic amphibian that was listed as an endangered species in 1997.

One week before the Supreme Court's ruling, Austinites again faced a springs-related ballot item. This time it was for \$65 million of bond money to purchase or prevent development on as much as 15,000 acres of the land feeding the springs, and it passed! The only thing that could threaten this rosy scenario is that the Nature Conservancy is brokering the land deal, and the price of the land is going up daily. One other ominous aspect of this situation is that the vote passed narrowly, with effective opposition coming from the same wealthy suburbs that are polluting the springs.

First the indigenous were killed or driven from central Texas by invading Europeans. Now, the process of invasion, exploitation and destruction is being repeated. Only this time, the invaders drive nice cars and use cell-phones. If the springs were to die, these people would not mourn. Those who love this place must continue to be strong and unified to defend Barton Springs against these hordes of heartless corporate clones.

Photo courtesy of Cascadia Forest Alliance

JET SKIS THREATEN NATIONAL PARKS

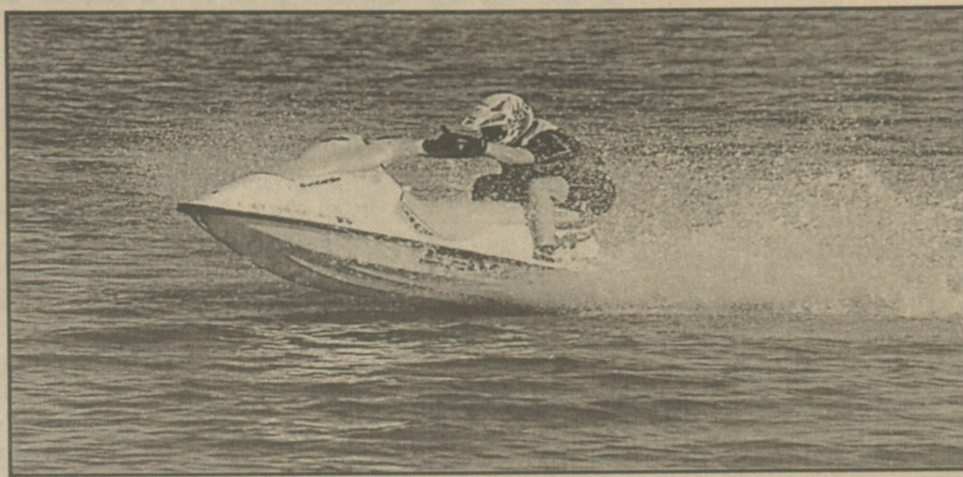
STOP THE EXXON VALDEZ DISASTER OF THE '90s FROM SPREADING!

Last fall, the National Park Service (NPS) sent its proposed jet ski regulations to the White House for review. The regulations would give individual park superintendents the authority to determine whether jet ski use is an appropriate activity for their parks. Unfortunately, superintendent designations would not provide adequate protection for park resources nor require a full environmental impact study.

Under the proposed regulations, jet ski use would be banned in 289 of the 376 national parks. However, the remaining 87 (more than 25 percent) will be open to jet ski degradation. In 13 parks, such as Gulf Island National Seashore and Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, superintendents will determine the appropriateness of jet ski activity. In an additional 12 parks, such as the Chatahoochee River National Recreation Area and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the regulations permit jet ski use to continue for two years. During this "grace period," NPS officials in Washington, DC, will determine whether jet ski use in these parks is appropriate. NPS staff in the remaining 62 parks may petition the Department of the Interior to write regulations authorizing jet skis.

Earth Island Institute's Bluewater Network maintains that the regulations are inadequate because they lock in status quo levels of jet ski activity and create mechanisms for expansion. The Bluewater Network is calling upon the American public to endorse a prohibition on jet skis in the NPS system. Nearly 10,000 people have signed a petition calling for this prohibition.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, up to 30 percent of the



Polluting for pleasure!

oil and gas in two-stroke jet ski engines is emitted out the tailpipes unburned. Jet skis dump the volumetric equivalent of four Exxon Valdez oil spills into America's waterways each year. In fact, this summer the California Air Resources Board announced that a single two-hour thrill ride on a jet ski emits as many hydrocarbons as the total amount emitted from driving a 1998 passenger vehicle for 139,000 miles!

Unlike other forms of recreation that build an appreciation for the park's natural resources such as hiking, kayaking or cross-country skiing, jet ski use damages resources. Reports of jet skis chasing down alligators exemplify the thousands of complaints of outrageous jet ski activity. Jet ski use also violates the NPS' legal mandate to leave park resources "unimpaired for the

enjoyment of future generations."

While public support for national parks is strong, there are countless threats to the system's existence. These include pollution sources outside park bound-

aries, nearby development, illegal hunting, record numbers of visitors, diminishing budgets and recreation that damages park resources.

For more information contact the Bluewater Network at Earth Island Institute, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133; (415) 788-3666 ext. 149; fax 788-7324; seansmith@igc.org.

DANIEL BOONE CLOSED TO LOGGING

US District Judge Karl Forester of Lexington handed citizens and endangered species a major victory on June 18 by ordering an immediate halt to all logging on Kentucky's Daniel Boone National Forest. Nine logging operations were suspended or canceled in order to comply with Forester's ruling, and the US Forest Service cannot allow cutting in the 687,000-acre forest until it protects several resident species of endangered plants and animals. Among those that call this forest home are Cumberland rosemary, American chaffseed, oyster mussels and the Indiana bat.

While the ruling only temporarily stops the logging, it does change the game a bit. Instead of citizens asking for the logging to stop, the Forest Service must now justify logging before it can begin. Kevin Lawrence, planning staff officer for the Daniel Boone, said that a forest management plan won't be ready for Forester's consideration until this winter at the earliest.

Judge Forester's preliminary injunction was, in part, to protect the biological diversity of the forest. Forester wrote, "Flora and fauna come and go, it is the nature of life. It is only in modern times that the extinction of a species, plant or animal, can be traced directly to the acts of man. The court finds that the greater good is served by preserving the habitats of the endangered and threatened species and thus preserving these species for generations to come."

Forester also said he sympathizes with the Forest Service because the national forests are required to produce timber and shelter endangered species. "The fact that loggers will not be subsidized by the US Forest Service, while the federal agency fully complies with the applicable Congressional mandates, is not afforded much weight by the Court in its balancing of harms. When it comes to obtaining logging contracts with the federal government, it appears that the free-market price determining law of supply and demand does not apply. The situation is rather Keynesian, in that in general (1) prices for hardwoods are lower on federal lands than on private lands and (2) loggers do not have to pay out of their own pockets to build logging roads. The combination of these factors usually yields a hefty profit for those loggers who timber on federal lands." Forester also noted that logging companies can still cut timber on private property, the source of 95 percent of hardwood trees.

Contact Heartwood at POB 1424, Bloomington, IN 47402; (812) 337-8898; fax (812) 337-8892; heartwd@bluemarble.net.

GAS ATTACK OFF CANADA'S SABLE ISLAND

BY DAVID ORTON

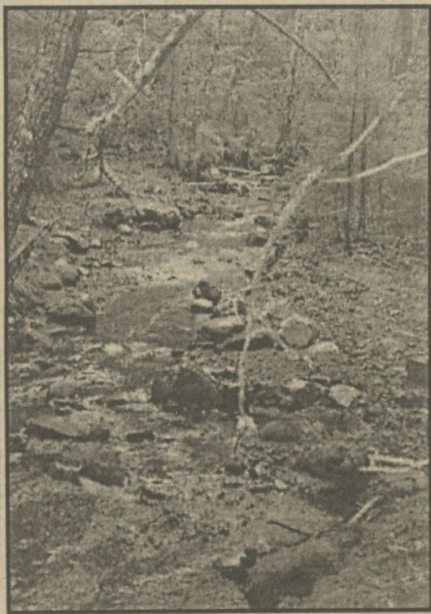
The project to extract natural gas from six gas fields surrounding Sable Island has proceeded through various illusory regulatory hurdles. After 56 days of formal hearings in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Canadian National Energy Board (NEB) issued the misnamed "Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity" in December of 1997. At present, gas wells are being drilled and extraction platforms are being built. Natural gas is scheduled to come ashore in November of 1999.

Now that the Sable gas project has received the overall regulatory go-ahead in Canada, resistance to it lies with individual land owners. The needed "rights-of-way" for the onshore 1,048-kilometer underground natural gas transmission line are being extricated from many unwilling landowners. The Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline Project is demanding a 25-meter right-of-way for the main gas line. This pipeline would bring Sable Island's gas to market, coming to shore at Country Harbor on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore. It would then snake across northern Nova Scotia, through New Brunswick and New England, where it would connect with the existing pipeline grid near Dracut, Massachusetts.

The main line will eventually be linked into a maze of feeder lines, further ruining wildlife habitat. In Western Canada, rights-of-way already contain up to six parallel pipelines.

In Maine there has been considerable opposition to the pipeline from groups like No New Corridors. The focus has been on making the natural gas line use existing utility rights-of-way.

In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, there have been over 30 objections filed by landowners, who have asked for what are called "detailed route hearings," as allowed under the National Energy Board Act. In order to be heard, a landowners' objections must qualify as not "frivolous" or "vexatious" according to NEB's standards. The detailed route hearings are scheduled for July and August of 1998.



This pristine drainage will be ravaged.

It is becoming clear that the whole East Coast of Canada, an area rich in undersea oil and gas deposits, is being turned into a fossil-fuel extraction zone mainly to feed the insatiable demands of the United States. Oil and gas company executives make public pronouncements about spending \$30 billion over the next 10 years on the offshore fossil-fuel industry on Canada's East Coast. There has already been an attempt to overturn a moratorium on oil and gas extraction on the Canadian Northeast Peak of Georges Bank.

The NEB is supposed to oversee and regulate the oil and gas industry. Yet it has absorbed the industry's world view. In 1987, the NEB put foreign and domestic customers on equal footing, abandoning the previous policy of national self-sufficiency in energy. As a result, Canada now exports more than 50 percent of its crude oil and natural gas. The North American Free Trade Agreement has locked Canada into supplying fossil fuels to the US.

For the NEB, as for the multinational gas and oil corporations, there seems to be no connection between the production, export and consumption of fossil fuels and global climate change. This is a criminal disregard for the future of all planetary life. It is past time to wake up.

BARE BONES

Spielberg Studio Halted

On June 26, federal Judge Ronald Lew issued a ruling that hands environmentalists a huge victory for the Ballona Wetlands, one of the last remaining coastal wetlands in Los Angeles County. This is where Steven Spielberg wanted to build his DreamWorks movie studio. After several years of protests from a growing citizens' coalition that emphasized the destructive magnitude of the mammoth Playa Vista project, the court has finally agreed with activists that this project would have a major impact on the environment.

Judge Lew concluded that the Wetlands Action Network, the California Public Interest Research Group and Ballona Wetlands Land Trust were correct in claiming that the Army Corps of Engineers erred in issuing a wetlands destruction permit to replace wetlands habitat with more than 10,000 condos and five-million square feet of commercial space. Further, the court ordered the Corps to conduct a full environmental impact statement on the entire project—a project that the developers themselves report would bring 10 new tons of air pollution and 200,000 additional vehicle trips to the region each day.

ADC Vote Reversed

After the House voted 229-193 on June 24 to cut the budget of the US Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control (ADC) program by one third, a re-vote was ordered because of confusion about which line item the money would be nixed from. The initial vote cut \$10 million from the agency's fiscal budget, the same amount the ADC spends each year shooting and poisoning predators that allegedly threaten livestock, such as coyotes and mountain lions.

The House reversed its decision in the re-vote, 192-232. Representative Skeen (R-NM) demanded the re-vote, and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman wrote a letter to House subcommittee members urging the money be restored. The ADC kills 100,000 predators annually.

Sustainable Ain't

A recent *US News and World Report* says scientific evidence is mounting that "sustainable forestry" may damage tropical forests and biodiversity. Citing two studies in *Conservation Biology*, the report found that even lightly logged forests had fewer species than unlogged forests. "We should not pretend that sustainable timber production is compatible with sustainable biodiversity conservation," said Peter Ashton, a tropical-forest ecologist at Harvard University.

Makah Gray Whale Hunt to Proceed

Despite heavy opposition from traditionalists within the tribe and environmentalists world-wide, the Makah people of coastal Washington will exercise their treaty rights and take up a gray whale hunt.

Claiming they have obtained a quota to kill four gray whales per year for the next five years from the International Whaling Commission, the Makah will go about the hunt in a new fashion. They will be armed with 50-caliber anti-tank guns and will use motorboats, not their traditional canoes, to tow the dead whales to shore.

"This hunt is not about spirit, it is about money," Alberta Thompson, a Makah elder, recently stated in the *New Age Journal*.

FREE TRADE IN THE FORESTS

APEC GUARANTEES PESTILENCE

BY PAIGE FISHER

The second leading threat to the planet's biodiversity, next to habitat loss, is invasion by exotic species, often spread through traded goods. Without adequate safeguards, international trade in forest products can introduce unpredictable and dangerous diseases and pestilence into healthy forest ecosystems. Invasive species have crossed oceans on shipments of untreated raw logs and other wood products. Inadequate restrictions on importing, transporting and processing allow pests to escape shipholds, loading docks, trucks and mills. These species then invade healthy forests and grow out of control.

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the free trade body of the Pacific Rim, worsens this threat. By liberalizing timber trade, APEC will encourage timber corporations to destroy some of the world's most important forest ecosystems and biodiversity. Specifically, APEC could dismantle trade regulations that protect forests, such as those that prevent invasions by exotic pests.

At its November 1997 summit in Vancouver, BC, APEC leaders approved forests for early voluntary sectoral liberalization, a fancy name for a fast track timber trade deregulation plan. The plan eliminates tariffs and trade regulations called "non-tariff measures," including some rules on importing and treating wood products known to carry dangerous pests and pathogens.

Forest activists from more than 20 countries have opposed the fast track timber trade plan on the grounds that APEC has not assessed environmental impacts or consulted citizens. Yet the United States Trade Representative (USTR) continues to spearhead the timber trade talks, having sought advice only from industry sector advisory committees (ISACs). ISACs are private advisory groups that include representatives of the American Forest and Paper Association, Boise Cascade, International Paper, Weyerhaeuser, Willamette Industries and Georgia-Pacific.

These industry trade groups justify the deregulation of raw wood imports by arguing that current phytosanitary controls are not necessary. Many free trade advocates call the controls a ploy to protect domestic industries. Yet exotic species are known to have caused disease and destruction in American forests.

Chestnut blight, caused by a fungus imported from East Asia in 1904, destroyed the entire population of American chestnut trees in 50 years. Dutch elm disease, a fungus introduced by the European elm bark beetle in the 1920s, killed 100 million trees. White pine rust, introduced around 1900, has killed or damaged between 80 and 95 percent of the United States' white and sugar pines.

The US Department of Agriculture has translated the threat of invasive

species into economic terms. A 1992 effort to eradicate Asian gypsy moths in three Pacific Northwest states cost over \$27 million. A 1991 report estimated that the establishment of a single pest, larch canker, could cause timber losses of \$129 million each year. A multiple-pest worst case scenario could cost the United States \$58 billion in timber losses alone.

Before 1990, phytosanitary regulations were not contested because the US did not import logs from other continents. But in the early '90s, environmental regulations on federal lands were strengthened and harvest levels declined. Timber corporations began to look outside the US to the vast forests of Siberia and Chile. In a 1991 test shipment of raw logs from Siberia to Eureka, California, by Louisiana-Pacific, the USDA discovered invasive pests and instituted a quarantine on raw log imports from Siberia.

In 1994, the Global Forest Manage-

tion. Now the Chilean Forest Products Association is trying to intervene in the lawsuit. If Chile appeals the injunction, these free trade bodies will determine whether this environmental safeguard is a barrier to free trade.

Also in response to the injunction, New Zealand's Forest Industry Council created a "market access committee" to work with New Zealand Embassy officials and trade ministers to ensure "revision of the EIS is adequately resourced, is fast-tracked and does not impose similar or further restrictions on soft-wood imports from New Zealand." Thus, American efforts to protect its own forests could also be undermined by timber companies who want to export forest products from Chile and New Zealand.

Why would US timber owners want to endanger the very forests on which they depend? It makes no sense to ship billions of board feet of logs from the US to other countries only to turn

around and encourage other countries to ship billions of board feet of potentially diseased logs to the United States. Yet US timber owners have major holdings in the foreign corporations that are trying to export raw logs.

For instance, the US company International Paper owns 50.1 percent of New Zealand's largest forest owner, Carter Holt Harvey. Rayonier and Weyerhaeuser are New Zealand's third- and fourth-largest forest producers. Boise-Cascade

has plans to build a wood chip mill in central Patagonia in Chile. And as members of the US Trade Representative's (USTR) industry sector advisory committees, these multinational corporations shape international trade, as well as domestic environmental policies. As multinationals, they no longer have home forests to steward.

Without opposition from grassroots organizations, APEC will speed forest destruction throughout the Pacific Rim. The production and trade of forest products must be more strictly regulated, not liberalized. Forest activists must demand access to trade talks and promote stricter timber trade rules, sustainable community-based forest management, sound conservation policies, legal enforcement and third-party certification.

In November in Malaysia, forest activists from around the Pacific Rim will meet at the People's Assembly on APEC, concurrent with the APEC Leaders' Summit. They will educate each other about APEC's plans for forests and the activities of multinational corporations involved in the Pacific Rim timber trade. They will develop strategies to stop APEC's destructive impacts and to gain equal footing for environmental concerns.

For more information, contact the Pacific Environment and Resources Center, 1055 Fort Cronkhite, Sausalito, CA 94965; (415) 332-8200, fax 332-8167; perc@igc.org.



The Asian long horned beetle threatens US forests

ment Group, a conglomeration of 10 Pacific Northwest logging companies, began cutting in the Russian Far East, intending to send raw Siberian logs back to the US to feed processing mills.

Dr. William Denison, professor emeritus of plant pathology at Oregon State University, says there is a greater than 50 percent chance that inadequately treated logs from Siberia could transport a pest that would virtually eliminate the Douglas fir forests of the Pacific Northwest. Despite warnings like Dr. Denison's, and in spite of its own studies on the dangerous risks of invasive species, the USDA lifted the ban.

Environmentalists that fight to defend domestic forest protection measures are up against the increasingly powerful forces behind free trade: multinational corporations and industry associations.

In 1995, the Pacific Environment and Resource Center, the Northcoast Environmental Center and the Oregon Natural Resources Council filed suit to block the import of raw logs and other unprocessed wood products into the US. In early 1997, a federal court agreed that the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed regulations was inadequate and imposed a partial injunction on the import of raw logs and wood products.

In July 1997, Chile's foreign relations minister, with support from New Zealand, threatened to approach APEC and the World Trade Organization with a request to overturn the injunc-

RECOLONIZING AFRICA: NAFTA LOOKS OVERSEAS

BY LYNDY WORSHAM

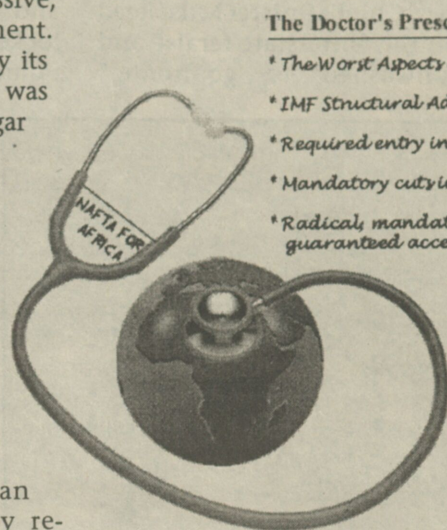
Corporate lobbyists are at it again with their free-trade book of tricks. This time it's classic Orwellian doublespeak: "The African Growth and Opportunity Act" (H.R. 1432/ S 778). The bill's non-binding preamble and stated goals, "to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development in sub-Saharan Africa," are in fact a thin veneer over a bill that seriously threatens the ecological foundations of rural Africa with massive, unregulated industrial development.

This new legislation, known by its opponents as "NAFTA for Africa," was introduced by Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) and Representative Philip Crane (the Illinois Republican who characterized some developing African countries and their leaders as "retards"). The bill narrowly passed the House of Representatives in March 1998, and the Senate is expected to vote on it in September.

The bill has two main components. First, it would award multinational corporations an enormous benefits package by requiring African nations to abide by austere economic conditions to be eligible for trade and aid benefits. These conditions include mandatory cuts in taxes for corporations, cuts in domestic spending, privatization of vital government services and natural resources, and the granting of new privileges for multinational corporations. Conditions such as these will facilitate the exploitation of Africa's mineral, forest, and oil reserves and prop up ruthless African dictators. It's not surprising Texaco, Chevron, Mobil, Exxon and Amoco

abuses by the ruling military junta.

The bill would further deal to Africa the worst aspects of NAFTA, the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) structural adjustment program. Despite promises of a cleaner environment from pro-NAFTA enthusiasts, steep environmental decline in the US and Mexico is well



The Doctor's Prescription

* The Worst Aspects of NAFTA

* IMF Structural Adjustment requirements

* Required entry into WTO

* Mandatory cuts in taxes on wealthy corporations

* Radical, mandatory privatization with guaranteed access for MNCs

Signed:

Richard Lugar

Philip Crane

documented since NAFTA's implementation. For example, research shows that the amount of unrecorded hazardous waste has actually increased, as have incentives for illegal dumping.

Similarly, the national treatment clause of NAFTA for Africa mimics the provisions of the MAI. National treatment would require that foreign investors be given equal rights with local businesses over Africa's natural resources. Thus, policies that favor community land tenure or resource management rights could be eliminated.

from Africa. The catch is that the bill does not require production to be carried out in Africa or that work done in Africa employ African workers. The bill is, therefore, an invitation for unlimited, duty-free transshipment of Chinese-made goods into the United States. In short, the Lugar-Crane bill will assist a few US business interests seeking to exploit Africa, while thousands of US textile and apparel workers (mostly people of color and women)

will lose their jobs.

It's no wonder many human rights, environmental, fair-trade, labor and pro-Africa groups firmly oppose the bill and want the Senate to either remove its damaging provisions or nix it. Strong backers of the bill include the Clinton administration and 45 multinational corporations, many with a long history of doing business with African dictators, exploiting cheap labor and polluting tribal lands. Chevron Oil Company, for example, a chief proponent of the bill, is ranked as one of the worst refinery polluters in the world. Chevron conducts business with Nigeria's military dictatorship and refused to divest from South Africa during the apartheid struggles of the 1980s and 1990s.

Liberalization policies and global market integration inevitably lead to greater exploitation of biological diversity and rapid depletion of natural resources. Trade and investment are not ends in themselves. The United States should link enforceable environmental and labor standards in all trade and investment agreements. Further, true economic development must center on the needs of Mother Earth and her peoples, not the needs of wealthy international investors and corporations.

The first African trade policy was initiated in 1619 to ease the sale and transfer of African slaves from the hands of powerful African kings to white masters in the new world. The NAFTA for Africa bill lays out unfair conditions for aid, seeking to re-colonize Africa through rampant environmental exploitation and cheap labor. As Representative Jessie Jackson Jr. recently wrote in a letter to US law makers, "The shame and scourge of Jamestown, Virginia, almost four centuries ago has left an indelible mark on the history, character, culture and psychology of this nation. We in Congress need not repeat the same trade policy in any form or version in 1998."

For more information on the NAFTA for Africa bill, contact Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch team at 215 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003; (202) 546-4996; gtw@citizen.org; <http://www.citizen.org/pctrade/Africa/finafac.htm>. Also, please call your Senators today, and say "no" to the Africa Free Trade bill; the Capitol switchboard is (202) 225-3121.

Lyndy Worsham is an intern at Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch in Washington, DC.

A BAD BILL GETS EVEN WORSE

On July 21, 1998, the Senate Finance Committee approved a mark-up of the Lugar-Crane Sub-Saharan Africa bill. Led by Senator Roth (R-DE) and Senator Lott the mark-up superglued an enormous trade package onto the African trade bill. The new version of the Africa bill is the free-trade dream package of multinational corporations and GOP leadership. The following is a list of only a few new elements now included in the bill.

1.) Fast Track: Last year's failed Senate version made worse by putting more limits on environmental, labor and health standards. Fast Track gives Clinton the power to conduct trade negotiations with the assurance that Congress will consider the deal without any amendments and limit debate.

2.) Caribbean Basin NAFTA Parity (CBI): non-reciprocal expansion of NAFTA benefits to 24 Latin American and Caribbean nations. (CBI was defeated by a near two-thirds majority in October 1997.)

3.) Most Favored Nation Status for Outer Mongolia: This is not a joke; they really did throw in the kitchen sink!

are leading the special interest lobbying effort to pass the bill.

Section 7 of the bill is potentially the most harmful; it would establish a US-sub-Saharan free-trade zone, modeled after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), without binding environmental, labor, or human rights standards or other public interest provisions. Without strong environmental safeguards, increased foreign investment in Africa will likely follow the model established by Royal Dutch Shell, whose oil drilling operation in Nigeria's Ogoniland has caused widespread environmental devastation and financed egregious human rights

Furthermore, laws limiting resource extraction and foreign ownership of land could be struck down.

Perhaps more nonsensically, the bill prescribes all these conditions on 48 sub-Saharan African countries without considering each nation's unique historical, cultural and economic background. It's no surprise that the IMF, the chief architect of the current global economy, failed to learn anything from forcing Southeast Asian economies to adopt a one-size-fits-all solution for economic woes.

The bill also grants new unlimited duty-free access to American markets for textile and apparel goods shipped

BARE BONES

Polar Bear Deformities

Scientists have found four polar bear cubs in the Norwegian Arctic territory of Svalbard that have both male and female sex organs. The deformities are thought to be linked to increased pollution in polar regions. The four polar bears represent four percent of the polar bears studied, a percentage much too high to attribute to statistical noise. Svalbard is known to have high levels of pollutants, particularly polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs).

PCBs accumulate in fat reserves and are found in higher concentrations in animals that eat higher on the food chain. They are among the thousands of human-made substances that scientists believe mimic animal sex hormones. Sexual aberrations in fish have also been monitored, but the polar bears are believed to be the first mammal to show such acute damage. The polar bear research may help prove links between synthetic chemicals and sexual deformities and diseases. Several studies have documented a decline in sperm counts in men living in industrialized countries over the past 50 years. These declines may be partly attributable to increased amounts of synthetic chemicals that mimic estrogen.

SW Streams Liberated

In a contract signed on June 18, the Southwest Center agreed to drop its request for a preliminary injunction against 29 grazing allotments. In return, the Forest Service has agreed to remove cattle from 100 miles of streams until a study of grazing's impact on endangered fish, birds, mammals, reptiles and plants is conducted.

Cattle are already off some allotments. In October 1997, the Southwest Center, represented by Earthlaw, filed suit against 92 grazing allotments in the Gila River Basin. In April 1998, the Forest Service agreed to temporarily remove cattle from 54 allotments along 230 miles of river in a similar suit by Forest Guardians. Combined with the recent agreement, some 330 miles of river have been protected from cattle. While the agreements will only last through the Endangered Species Act consultation, it is likely that this will result in the permanent cessation of grazing on these rivers.

Mobile Chernobyl Dead

Anti-nuclear activists and environmentalists are jubilant over a Senate vote that killed S. 104, a bill that tried to establish an interim high-level radioactive waste dump near Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Dubbed "Mobile Chernobyl" by environmentalists, the dump would have authorized transportation of high-level nuclear waste through 43 states. Senate Energy Committee chairman Frank Murkowski (R-AK), said he would not reintroduce the bill again this session. House Speaker Newt Gingrich also stated that he does not expect the House to vote again on Mobile Chernobyl during the 105th Congress.

MacBlo Ends Clearcutting

MacMillan Bloedel recently announced that it will stop clearcutting Canada. The company proposes to use three zones of forest management instead. In the timber zone, 30-percent canopy retention is the goal. In the habitat zone 40-percent retention is proposed. The third, called the old-growth zone, would retain 70-percent of the canopy. The company has also stated that it will concentrate its old-growth logging within already fragmented areas.

Bringing It Home

On June 19, over 25 activists descended upon a Denver suburb to protest at the home of Rick Seibel, director of the Western Regional Coordinating Center of the federal Office of Surface Mining. The protest was organized by Campaign KOSMIC (Keep the Office of Surface Mining In Check), which includes members of Support Native Resistance from Colorado University, the Citizens Coal Council, Greenpeace and Earth First!.

Seibel is directly responsible for regulating coal mining on the Navajo Reservation. But under his watch, Peabody Coal Company has destroyed homes, graves, and water supplies and disrupted the lives of residents of Black Mesa, an area of abundant coal reserves in the heart of the Navajo and Hopi reservations in northeastern Arizona. The protesters pointed out that Seibel lives in comfort while his actions make life miserable for the residents of Black Mesa. After reading flyers from the protesters, several neighbors joined the marching and chanting in front of Seibel's home.

The demonstration was called shortly after Peabody applied to expand the scope of its operations in the mining area by approximately 250 acres. Though the application is expected to be approved, Peabody began expansion activities prior to receiving authorization. Bill Clark, manager of permitting at the Office of Surface Mining, admitted that "Peabody did construct part of an access road without prior approval, and they were issued a violation." Local activists say that such is typical under Seibel's oversight.

This is the second time Campaign KOSMIC has protested at Seibel's home; the first demonstration was held on Earth Day. They encourage others who live in the Denver-Boulder area to join them and urge supporters living in the St. Louis area to protest at Peabody's headquarters.

For further information, contact Carolyn Johnson, Citizens Coal Council, 1705 S. Pearl St. #5, Denver, CO 80210; ccc@netone.com.

Protesters Block Tube Train

Just before morning rush hour on July 13, environmental activists climbed onto the roof of a tube train at Bank Station and shut down the eastbound Central Line in London. The action was in support of the tubeworkers' stand against privatisation. Some protesters unfolded a carriage-length banner reading, "Private Profit at Public Expense," while others, dressed as fat cats, offered to buy Bank Station and handed out peanuts and explanatory leaflets to passengers.

More supporters holding a huge "Stop Privatisation—Support the Tubeworkers" banner picketed the station entrance.

The activists from Reclaim the Streets (RTS) are, like the strikers, fighting the privatisation plans for the London Underground. They say that selling off the network, far from improving service as the government claims, will bring only deteriorating conditions and higher prices for travellers while increasing car congestion and pollution on the streets. More fundamentally, they argue that this public resource should not become yet another opportunity for corporate gain.

RTS has a history of supporting transport workers. During the 1996 tube strike, activists organised a simultaneous Critical Mass bike blockade, while others occupied the office of the then London Underground manager Peter Ford.

MASS UPRISING AT JABILUKA MINE

continued from front page

The Jabiluka mine lease, arbitrarily excluded from the park itself, contains some 190 known sacred art sites and has not yet been properly surveyed for additional sites. The sites are in Australian Heritage Commission areas that are very close to where the mine portal, process plant and tailings dams would be.

The mine would be on the land of the Mirrar-Gundjehmi people, which is legally recognized as such not merely by dint of occupation over the last 40-60,000 years, but under whitefella law, by the award of land rights by a land-rights tribunal. This has not, however, given the Mirrar Gundjehmi the legal right to refuse the mine—or so the government says, though the Mirrar are doing all they can both legally and otherwise to stop the mine.

The senior traditional owner, Yvonne Margarula, has vowed to stop the mine after seeing the impact of the nearby Ranger mine on her people. Yvonne and Jacqui Katona, the executive director of the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, were arrested by police for trespassing on their own land on international Jabiluka Action Day. There were also protests in San Francisco, Ottawa, Bonn, Tokyo and Seoul.

Indeed, Jabiluka has become a national and international hot potato. Three resolutions have passed in the Australian Senate that either call on the government to halt the project, condemn the police response or criticize aspects of the environmental evaluation process. Last January, a resolution asking the Australian government to proceed no further with the Jabiluka project passed the European Parliament.

Last year, the World Heritage Committee was approached, first by the Mirrar, and then by a range of international environmental groups with a request that Kakadu be placed on the "World Heritage in danger" list. This year, the Mirrar themselves, together with the Wilderness Society, actually went to Paris to lobby the mid-yearly meeting. The committee responded by deciding to send a high-level inspection team, including their chairman, to visit Kakadu. This unprecedented inspection is due to happen in October.

In the meantime, a nationwide coalition of environmental, peace and students groups has organized a non-violent blockade of the mine site. At one of the first actions on June 17, over one hundred protesters stopped attempts to begin construction on the mine. Protesters locked on at 7 p.m. to three ERA trucks carrying earth-moving equipment through the World Heritage area. Seventeen people were arrested.

During the action, police tactics were seriously brought into question because a number of protesters were physically lifted and tossed to the side of the road. One protester was flown to a hospital with head injuries. Soon after the arrests, radio equipment

used to ensure the safety of the blockers, was confiscated by the police with no explanation or receipts. The protesters say they acted nonviolently at all times.

Meanwhile, claims of police bias in the battle over Jabiluka were bolstered by a policeman publicly calling protesters disgusting, filthy pseudo-terrorists. In response to revelations about the author of the anonymous letter in the *Northern Territory News*, Chief Minister Mike Reed called on the "interstate ferals" and "great unwashed" to "go home."



Opponents rallying to shut down the mine site

According to Reed, "The Northern Territory Police Force is highly respected by territorians and is nationally recognised for its professionalism and integrity."

The results of such disrespect are shown again and again. On July 11, ERA started blasting explosives just inside the Jabiluka mineral lease, endangering the lives of protesters who were in close vicinity to the compound. Police had been alerted to the protesters' presence the day before.

Within 800 metres of the blast site, other protesters were visible to ERA helicopters. ERA did not use sirens or any other warning before the blasting began and did not notify anyone in the area of their plans, even though it was publicly announced that 200 people were in the area for a peaceful march.

Just three days later, over 300 people gathered at the entrance to the Jabiluka mine. Another 130 people swarmed into the compound at dawn and stopped work. Twenty people locked onto machinery in the compound. Approximately 100 people were arrested, bringing the total number of people arrested defending Jabiluka to 370. The protesters have emphasized that though they number only hundreds, they represent millions. Indeed, national polls have shown that 70 percent of Australians oppose the mine.

Please write and fax these Australian officials to tell them that there is international support for protecting the Kakadu. Senator Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment, Parliament House, Canberra; 61-2-2673-6101. Prime Minister John Howard 61-2-2673-4100 or 61-2-9251-5454.

For more information, contact John Hallam, Friends of the Earth Sydney, Suite 15, 1st Floor, 104 Bathurst Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000; 61-2-9283-2006, fax 61-2-9283-2005; nonukes@foesyd.org.au, <http://www.peg.apc.org/~foesydnew/>. Also contact Jabiluka Campaign at 011-61-8-89793130; blockade@jabiluka.net; www.green.net.au/gundjehmi/.

ENDANGERED SEA TURTLES VS. FREE TRADE

The World Trade Organization (WTO), true to its name, has proven yet again its inability to value environments over free trade. In April, the WTO ruled against provisions of the US Endangered Species Act that protect endangered sea turtles. In response, the California-based Sea Turtle Restoration Project is calling on the US to withdraw from the WTO, recognizing that it is not a forum where environmental concerns can be fairly evaluated.

If an appeal by the US is unsuccessful, the WTO ruling would require that the US change the law or face severe economic sanctions. The US law mandates that wild shrimp sold in the US be caught using turtle excluder devices (TEDs), which allow turtles to escape shrimpers' nets. Failure to use TEDs kills as many as 150,000 sea turtles every year. Already, all eight of the world's sea turtle species are considered endangered or threatened. If US protections are gutted, sea turtles will be pushed even further towards extinction.

Thailand, Pakistan, India and Malaysia brought the complaint against the US, charging that the ban against their shrimp was an unfair restraint of trade. Pakistan, India and Malaysia have refused to use TEDs, even though the US provides training on the use and construction of the devices.

The Clinton administration has appealed the WTO ruling, but only reluctantly after receiving 30,000 phone calls from concerned citizens, an effort organized by the Sea Turtle Restoration Project. Currently, the administration is considering changing US laws protecting sea turtles to allow the importation of shrimp on a shipment-by-shipment basis instead of country-by-country. The Sea Turtle Restoration Project's Peter Fugazzotto says this will open the door to laundering of shrimp into the US that has been caught without TEDs.

Contact President Clinton and tell him that the US should take any action necessary to protect sea turtles, including withdrawing from the WTO. Tell him that turtle protection laws should not be altered. President Clinton, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC. 20508. For more information contact the Sea Turtle Restoration Project, POB 400, Forest Knolls, CA 94933; (415) 488-0370, fax 488-0372.

BLACK-FACED SPOONBILL ALERT

RARE BIRD JOCKIES WITH TAIWANESE INDUSTRY

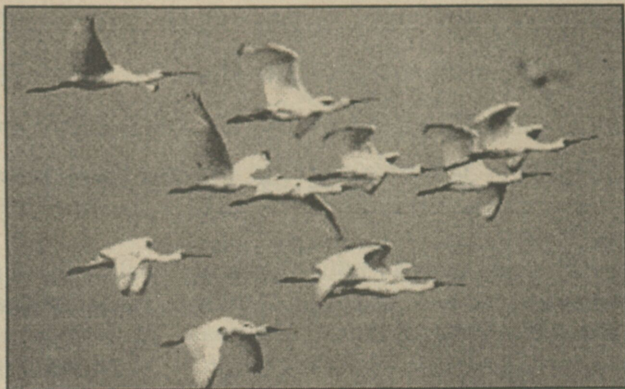
BY MATTHEW SMELTZER

One of the rarest birds in the world, the black-faced spoonbill, spends its winters in the coastal wetlands of the Tsengwen River in Taiwan. Although more than half the remaining 550 birds migrate to this area, the Taiwanese government is poised to approve plans for an industrial complex that would destroy one-third of the spoonbill's habitat. This would send the black-faced spoonbill spiraling toward extinction.

The 7,000-acre Bin-nan industrial complex would include an oil refinery, a naphtha cracker (used in the processing of petrochemicals), a steel mill and a port. The project, strongly supported by Taiwanese President Lee Tung Hui, would be built on Chi-gu Lagoon, the center of the 35-kilometer habitat radius required by the spoonbill.

Besides ringing a death bell for this rare species, the project would have other serious environmental impacts that have not been addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). University of California hydrologist, Dr. G. Mathias Kondolf, has projected that the petrochemical plant and steel mill would use approximately 117 million cubic meters of water per year. This amount is twice the capacity of existing reservoirs in the region and equal to that consumed by all industrial users in

the nine-county San Francisco Bay area. Three new dams have been proposed to service the industrial complex. The dams would flood two aboriginal villages upstream and alter the flow regimes of the Kaoping, Yailiao, Laonung, Meinung, Chisan and Tsengwen rivers. Dr. Kondolf says



Spoonbills cruise the afternoon sky

that the EIA for the project "contains no assessment of the potential effects of such a massive [interbasin water] transfer." He further notes that although Taiwan has one of the highest erosion rates in the world, the project EIA does not address sediment issues, a problem at many reservoirs in Taiwan.

Increased pollution, water salinity and water temperature changes from the project would significantly damage the Chi-gu fishery, which currently generates US\$136 million annually and employs 16,000 people. The project would also make it difficult for Taiwan to meet internationally agreed upon CO₂ emission levels. Bin-nan alone is expected to produce 31 percent of Taiwan's 1990 CO₂ emissions, according to *The China Times*.

The Chi-gu fishers have strongly opposed the Bin-nan project proposal and resent the media depiction of them as poor fishing villages in desperate need of jobs. They see no reason to destroy their jobs and way of life. Chen Jian Wong, speaking for his group says, "We know how to fish. We don't know how to work in a factory. We can support ourselves without this oil plant."

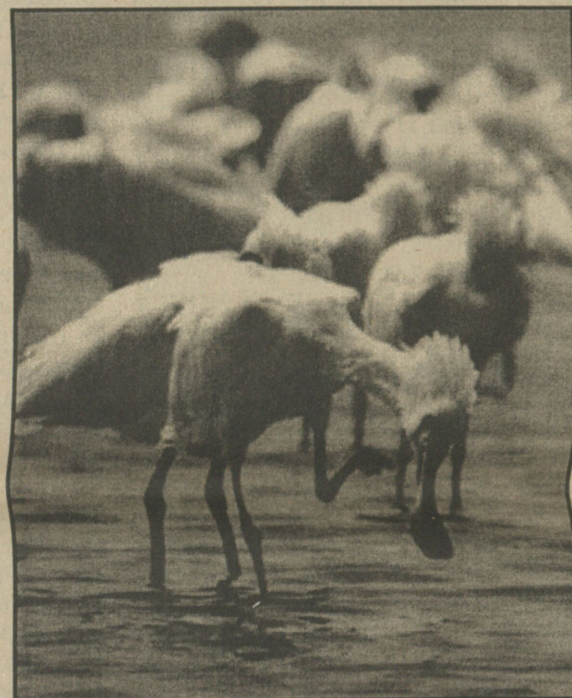
Over the past year, faculty and students from the University of California at Berkeley and National Taiwan University have been working with the Chi-gu fishers, Taiwanese environmental groups and national legislator Su Huann-Chi to raise awareness among the Taiwanese people of the project's serious impacts. The coalition, called SAVE (Spoonbill Action Voluntary Echo), is campaigning to bring public pressure on the Taiwanese government to halt the project.

In March, a SAVE delegation was joined by members of the UN Committee on Energy and international black-faced spoonbill experts on an important trip to Taiwan. SAVE presented its most recent research findings, along with a growing list of endorsing organizations, to Taiwan's national legislature, the director of Taiwan's EPA and to the heads of several political parties, including Taiwan's Green Party.

The last hurdle faced by the Tuntex Consortium,

the Bin-nan project's developer, is approval of the EIA. Just recently, the EIA review committee handed down a decision protecting one-third of the lagoon. This may or may not have the Tuntex Consortium packing its bags, looking for a ripper opportunity elsewhere. Nonetheless, approval of the EIA would be in violation of the biodiversity protection principle of Agenda 21, the Rio Earth Summit's blueprint for sustainable development, which Taiwan has committed to respecting. Denying the project will not necessarily be the end of the struggle; another group is in the works with a back-up proposal for an airport and highway for the same area, and the Tuntex Consortium is sure to look elsewhere.

For more information, contact Matthew Smeltzer, SAVE Coordinator at UC Berkeley, Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, 202 Wurster Hall, Berkeley, CA, 94720; (510) 528-8283; fax 549-9431; msmeltze@ced.berkeley.edu; http://www4.ced.berkeley.edu:8004/student_org/save.



A black-faced spoonbill in the threatened lagoon

RHINOS UNDER ATTACK

BY DON OGDEN

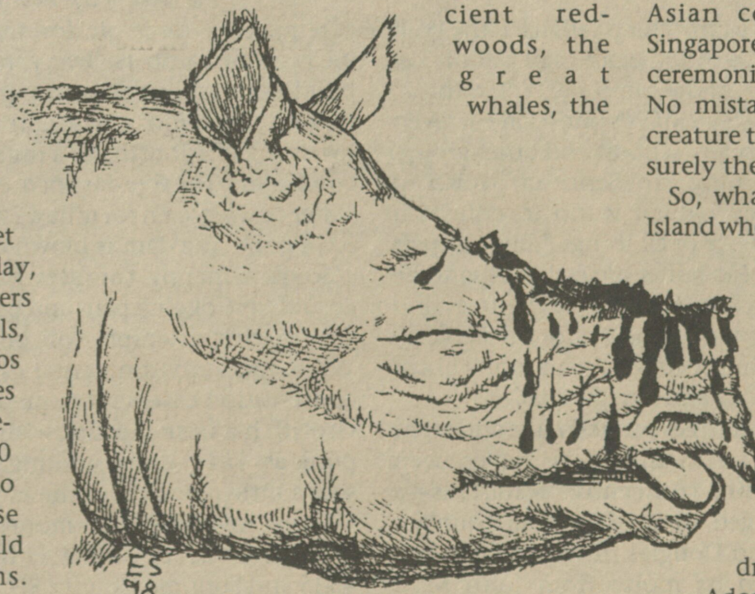
Edward O. Wilson says the rate of extinction in the world's rainforests may exceed 50,000 species a year, 137 a day, six an hour, and the number of species on Earth is being reduced by a rate 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than in prehuman times. When I revisit these sad numbers, I often think of the rhinoceros.

Here is a creature that has dwelled upon this planet for 50 million years. Yet today, the Sumatran rhinos' numbers are as few as 400 individuals, and a mere 70 Javan rhinos exist. The three other species are: Indian rhino (2,100 remaining), white rhino (7,600 remaining), black rhino (2,500 remaining). These numbers include both wild and captive populations. Without drastic action, four of the five rhino species could be extinct in the wild within the next decade.

The rhinoceros has roamed this planet from what seems like the beginning of time. Humans, on the other

hand, have tread this same Earth for only a fraction of that time. It is, once again, that same violation we visit

upon the ancient redwoods, the great whales, the



ageless elements. While the rhino is, to some, the embodiment of tenacity; the human has become the embodiment of incoherence. In our weakness of mind, we remove that

which sustains us.

As if that were not irony enough, recall that the rhino's horn is sold on the black-market as an aphrodisiac in Asian countries such as China, Singapore and Taiwan, as well as for ceremonial dagger handles in Yemen. No mistake should be made, if any creature that walks this Earth is sacred, surely the rhino is one.

So, what can we do here on Turtle Island where the rhino no longer dwells, or in Europe, still a great distance from those dwindling herds? These animals and their tormentors seem so far away. The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) is making efforts to protect the remaining rhinos. Though most of its work is far from drastic action, it operates an Adopt a Guard/Patrol Program in

Garamba National Park, Republic of Congo. Sponsors contribute anywhere from \$20 to \$200 a month to outfit and support African guards to protect the rhinos. These armed anti-poaching pa-

trols in Garamba are the only thing standing between 25 Northern white rhinos and extinction. Poachers in the area have already killed one guard and two rhinos this year. It's a rhino war. It seems to make some additional sense for IRF to expand its guard program to other sites, most notably to Indonesia and Malaysia where the most endangered of all, the Sumatran rhino (*dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), or hairy rhino, has declined 50 percent over the last ten years due to poaching.

Yes, drastic action is needed, but folks who don't want to pony up the bucks for IRF's Adopt a Guard/Patrol Program will have to devise their own strategies and tactics. The more tame among us will have to satisfy themselves with lobbying Congress to fully fund the US Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act. Meanwhile, the rhino population continues to fall.

For more information contact the International Rhino Foundation, 14000 International Rd., Cumberland, OH 43732. (614) 638-2286; fax 638-2287; IRhino@aol.com; <http://www.rhinos-irf.org>.

BARE BONES

Monstrous Tongass Sale

Forest Guardians recently appealed the Control Lake timber sale in Alaska's Tongass National Forest. As one of the largest and most ecologically destructive timber sales in the United States, it will remove nearly 60 million board feet or 12,000 log trucks of trees from 2,358 acres over the next five years. Twenty-six percent of the timber sale area will be clearcut. Most astounding, the US Forest Service (USFS) will construct 42 miles of new roads to access the forest.

The USFS admits there will be a significant impact on wildlife populations, including deer, marten and black bear. Yet, none of these impacts were included in the Environmental Analysis of the sale. Further, the USFS used outdated timber market demand information for economic calculations. In fact, the Tongass National Forest's 1996 timber program cost US taxpayers nearly \$30 million.

For more information, contact John Horning, Forest Guardians, 1413 Second Street, Santa Fe, NM 87505; (505) 988-9126; fax 989-8623; www.fguardians.org.

Free Radio Berkeley Silenced by FCC

In the wake of a nightmare legal decision, pirate radio flagship Free Radio Berkeley (FRB) has gone off the air. On June 17, Judge Claudia Wilken issued the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) an injunction against FRB-founder Stephen Dunifer. Later that afternoon, FRB's five-year run of defiance came to an end. The 50-watt community station had given Earth First!ers and other activists a voice unavailable elsewhere. Dunifer and FRB are pioneers in the struggle for citizen access to broadcast media and took the lead in litigation against the FCC's blatantly pro-corporate licensing process.

Since the decision, there have been at least two instances of direct action on FRB's frequency in the Berkeley area. Other community micropower stations from Seattle, WA, to Gainesville, FL, remain in operation. Lorenzo Ervin, a representative of the Black Liberation Radio movement, has called for a campaign of direct action against the FCC and its corporate master, the National Association of Broadcasters.

Polish Base Camp Busted

On June 8, police raided a protest camp and arrested 24 people involved in the month-long defense of Poland's Mount St. Anna nature reserve. Activists were demonstrating against the A4 motorway that is to slice through the reserve. Under Polish law, new highways are forbidden in designated landscape parks. However, regional authorities decided that a strip of land across the park does not belong to the park, making way for the A4 motorway. An encampment had been on the roadway since April 30 when outraged citizens built tree houses in defense of the reserve.

The area is home to 600 species of butterflies and numerous rare plants. The road would also cut through an ancient woodland and destroy an existing village. According to the Green Federation, police were apparently better mannered than the private guards who tried to attack the camp by chasing protesters with off-road vehicles and by beating them with clubs. The camp has disbanded for now.

THE SACRAMENTO SHUFFLE:

OR WHAT'S A NICE FOREST DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

BY DARRYL CHERNEY

Unless we have a revolution in the next few months, the reality is that the fate of Headwaters forest will ultimately be decided in the political arena. In accordance with the Headwaters agreement, a back-room deal brokered by Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and then-Deputy Secretary of State John Garamendi, the federal government has already appropriated \$250 million plus tax breaks and 8,000 acres of second-growth land to give to Charles Hurwitz, the CEO of Maxxam and Pacific Lumber.

The feds have also promised Hurwitz an approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) enabling him to log the remaining 200,000 acres of Pacific Lumber forestland not protected by the agreement.

There's another hitch. The California Legislature must also approve an additional \$130 million to pay for its share of Headwaters, and the legislators aren't all that thrilled about forking over the big bucks with no strings attached. State Senator Byron Sher and others have introduced compromise legislation that would require modest 180-foot stream buffers and 50-year protection for some of the smaller unacquired old-growth redwood groves before the \$130 million is allocated. Governor "Sneaky Pete" Wilson, on the other hand, wants desperately to simply appropriate a line item through the budget process allocating the funds without additional conditions. No one is sure if any of this will fly through the legislature by August 31, 1998, when the session ends. Some would prefer to simply start all over again in 1999 with a new governor and legislature. This might put the state and the forest in a better negotiating position. However, the federal appropriation expires on March 1, 1999, and unless the feds extend their deadline (which is possible), the state would only have two months to pass a better pack-

age once the new session starts in January, which would be most difficult, to say the least.

Of course, some folks don't want Hurwitz to receive any funds at all and would rather wait until early 1999 for resolution of the Office of Thrift Supervision trial, wherein Hurwitz's liability for a failed Texas Savings and Loan will be determined in. Once his financial obligation is determined

to simply give the money to Hurwitz through the budget. Pressure from environmentalists has moved Thompson to agree to add a few environmental safeguards to the deal, but his heart isn't in it. And unfortunately, local politicians running for re-election are often reluctant to stick their necks out too far for fear of having their heads chainsawed off by the timber industry.

It is illegal for the state of California to pay out more than fair market value for land it is acquiring, and most believe that the \$100,000 per acre Hurwitz would receive is vastly inflated. Consider that Maxxam only

THAT MEANS TAXPAYERS WOULD BE PAYING HURWITZ 80 PERCENT OF THE PRICE HE PAID FOR PACIFIC LUMBER'S 180,000 ACRES, SAWMILLS, MACHINERY AND COMPANY TOWN IN EXCHANGE FOR FOUR PERCENT OF ITS LAND BASE.

(which could total \$1 billion), a possible "debt for nature" swap could be engineered without any additional funds being allocated by taxpayers. In other words, the political scene is a confused jumble of possibilities that Hurwitz would like to escape from quickly with the cash, land and tax breaks in hand.

Many of the elected officials involved are not exactly rock solid on issues of ecology and justice. For example, democratic state Senator Mike Thompson, currently running for the US Congress, favors Governor Pete Wilson's proposal

paid \$900 million for the entire company. Hurwitz immediately sold off \$400 million of non-timber related assets (a huge welding operation, a San Francisco office building and most of the pension fund). That means that the taxpayers would be paying Hurwitz 80 percent of the price he paid for Pacific Lumber's 180,000 acres, sawmills, machinery and company town in exchange for four percent of its land base. Seems like a bad deal. And to quote State Senator Tom Hayden's recent assessment of the situation, "No deal is better than a bad deal."



Y-M-C-A: THEY'RE GONNA CUT AT THE...

The "Web of Life Field School" wants to cut these redwoods.

a temporary reservoir for the canoeing and swimming pleasure of campers. Every year for the last ten years, a bulldozer has been driven up the center of the Little River to create a seven-foot gravel embankment holding water back for over three-fourths of a mile, devastating stream habitat conditions. The five days of dozer work produce solid brown water downstream for miles. Every winter, once the campers have gone, the dam is blown out by high winter flows.

Some unhappy campers have gotten wind of the ill-considered logging plan and intend to show the YMCA that any logging attempts will be hitched to serious protest. While local environmental groups attempt to work out a conservation easement to preserve the trees, Friends of Old Growth has been meeting with local Earth First!ers. Like the punk-ass kid at every summer camp, Earth First! intends to sow a little rebellion in the ranks.

To get involved or for more information, contact Friends of Old Growth at POB 281, Little River, CA 95456; (707) 937-4335 and Sonoma County EF! at POB 7544, Santa Rosa, CA 95407; (707) 523-1229. The public comment period has been extended to mid-August. Contact Larry Bush, YMCA, 2016 Center St., Berkeley, CA 94704; (510) 549-4515, fax 649-9885 and tell him to shelve the plan and go for the conservation easement.

—INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TOMAS FIORE

Photo by Bear Crow

Birth First!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF EARTH MOTHERS

Just the beginning of a long-overdue conversation...

These four pages will be discussing the issues of birth, parenting, and midwifery within the context of radical environmentalism. This is hardly a new topic, however we will be discussing new aspects of this issue, giving voice to those activists who are successfully combining activism and parenthood.

Many times, Earth Firsters react "vehemently" and defensively toward parents. This comes from our knowledge of human impacts on wild places, and it's a response to the dominant patriarchal culture which pressures young people to reproduce. We, as a movement, have countered this with a blanket dogma of "don't reproduce." Overall, this can be a healthy response: it helps decrease population, and it empowers those women (and men) who really don't want to reproduce anyway.

The problem with this dogma, though, is that it comes with an unflattering set of assumptions about those who do want to reproduce, creating an atmosphere where activist parents (especially mothers) are marginalized, alienated, and even treated abusively by fellow activists. The net result is a weaker movement.

We feel that it's time to openly discuss these issues, question our assumptions, and give activist parents an opportunity to voice their experiences. We may not all come to consensus on this topic—it's not the first time and won't be the last time that we've had divergent opinions in this movement. But the bottom line is that we need to have honest, respectful dialogue with each other, support each other, and stand up for ourselves, our children, and the future of our movement!

Choice, Birth and Growth

BY KAREN WOOD

So—you consider yourself pro-choice, don't you? I mean, a woman should have the right to abort a pregnancy in her own body, and, after all, there's too many humans running amok on our planet as it is, right? You've been to the pro-choice rallies—and I'll bet you shrink in abhorrence at the propagandistic pressure tactics used by the far Right on pregnant women who are in that vulnerable position of making what may be the most difficult decision in their lives. If a woman doesn't want to birth, by the gods, no one should get in her way!

But what if she wants to birth? Well—that's different then, isn't it? Then she becomes a "breeder," one of "them." Someone to be denigrated for their ignorance of the need for reducing human numbers.

For making such a decision, I have faced pressure, disrespect, and outright confrontation from several of my supposed "pro-choice" friends. I was subjected to everything from pressure to have an abortion, to being told to my face by an elder whom I respect that I was "raping the Earth." Had I been choosing an abortion, I'm sure the same friends would have offered encouragement, approval, and support. However, in a weird twist on the idea of "choice," what I found is that, at least in the Earth First! movement, "pro-choice" is

better described as "anti-birth."

This attitude gets carried even further until it becomes a general disrespect for parents and children, even when those families stay active in environmental issues. Somehow the fact that we have "bred" disqualifies us from the elite club of righteous activists. Being more home-bound and less able to participate in such essential EF! bonding activities as civil disobedience, long-distance protests, and river trips increases our isolation from the movement.

All of this highlights something that I have always felt to be true—that Earth Firsters' intolerance of those who decide to birth children has impoverished the movement. Not only does the movement drive away perfectly good activists, but we

also miss the opportunity for growth that comes with working with and being with children. Believe me, there are few things more inspiring than listening to a nine-year-old tell a National Forest Supervisor that he's talking bullshit—especially when you know that nine-year-old knows those woods ten times better than him!

When I get a tubal ligation next month, I expect that the same "lifestyle police" who gave me shit about my last pregnancy will send their approval my way—approval that I don't want in the least. It's a funny thing, but guilt-trips and self-righteous judgments just don't do much for me. Instead, I'll be looking into my children's faces and seeing enough beauty and love there to inspire my activism for a lifetime.

I was subjected to everything from pressure to have an abortion, to being told... that I was "raping the Earth."

Birth First! A Great Place to Start

Birth First! is a radical fringe of the Earth First! movement who believes that the whole issue of human reproduction is a hell of a lot more complicated than bumper-sticker slogans like "Copulate Don't Populate," (even if we did come up with that one ourselves). That message is definitely an important one, but it is only part of the issue of overpopulation and certainly *not* the dogmatic solution. We believe in the absolute sovereignty of a woman over her own body and her own future. We also believe that Earth mothers have a lot in common with Mother Earth, and we are seeking to elucidate these commonalities.

We know that Mama Earth would greatly appreciate us reducing our numbers, as well as those of us already here living more simply. We believe that the best way to reduce human population is not by imposing legal or moral sanctions, but rather, it is to support a culture where only wanted children are born. We believe that improved education, social status, and economic opportunities for women, and unrestricted access to birth control and abortion, empowers us to make healthier choices for ourselves, for our children, for society, and for the planet.

We take the stand that we must all work to support women who choose to have abortions as well as those who choose to have babies. We believe that all babies should be born in natural, empowered situa-

tions, guided by the loving hands of a midwife, rather than the technology of the corporate/medical machine. We strive to make birth a moment of connection with the Earth and to all that is wild and natural within each child and mother. We believe that birth is an important cultural ritual, one which, in the dominant paradigm, teaches us to fear women's bodies, to fear the wildness and power she unleashes, to fear the most animalistic state that a human can occupy. Modern society teaches us to put our faith in the, technocratic, industrial, medical machine. We believe that the real threat to the Earth from continued population increase rests not only in how many babies are born, but also, in the *way* they are born. We envision a world where our primary connection—that of a wild critter gloriously attached to Mother Earth—is begun at birth and nurtured throughout one's life.

Just as we strive to live in harmony with the Earth in all other aspects of our lives, so must we reconcile our birthing practices with our vision for the future. We *do not* encourage women to have babies, but we do acknowledge that women *will* continue to lovingly choose to have babies, and so we defend their



I'm getting My Tubes Tied...

BY LAURA MCKENZIE

What do Earth Firsters have against pregnancy? Why are there good activists who sometimes feel outcast and alienated because they have children? Speaking for myself, I am a childless woman in my early 20's who is getting my tubes tied for many reasons, including the environmental effects of overpopulation/over-consumption, the heart-ripping fear of what kind of Earth our kids are going to inherit, and the lack of acceptance and support for children in our community and in society as a whole. It saddens me to see this kind of attitude within the EF! movement, too.

Part of being a community is supporting each other and helping to guide each other to make good, empowered choices. Not too long ago we lived in communities where a mother would be supported and given help in raising her children by other women (and men!). In the EF! community, I am one of those helpers, and I greatly enjoy being with and learning from the children in our movement.

I'm glad more people are choosing not to have children, especially those who aren't emotionally ready for the responsibility. But activists who do choose to reproduce need our support! And I, for one, am thankful for these children; they give me hope for the future!

Top 10 Suggestions for EcoActivists Who Are Worried About Overpopulation

BY OLABIA FULLOFBLOOD

THE HILLBILLY ECO-WARRIOR EARTH MAMA

10. Support and Get Active in Pro-Choice Rights and Birth Control Education
9. Get to Know Mothers and Their Kids, and Understand Their Choices
8. Help Create Child Friendly Spaces at Meetings & Rendezvous
7. Become a Loving Uncle/Auntie to a Kid
6. Adopt a Parentless Child
5. Reduce Your Own 1st World Consumer Habits
4. Practice Birth Control
3. Get a Vasectomy/Tubal Ligation
2. Become Celibate
1. Jump Off a Bridge

right to birth in a natural, wild, and unrestrained way.

We're all in this movement together, so scapegoating and self-righteous indignation is better directed toward corporate plunderers and slimy politicians than at your sister activist-mamas who are staying back at base camp to cook dinner, staying back at home to do media work, staying up long after the kidlings are in bed to do organizing, and yes, even staying active enough to be teaching their children about protecting the Earth.

If you want to know more about the concept of Birth First!, read the books in the suggested reading section and learn about standard technological interventions, common genital mutilation, and the tortures and abuses that women are exposed to in the process of birthing at the hands of the corporate medical system. Ask your mother, aunts, sisters, and friends what their hospital births were like. Chances are that you will see a well-accepted medical establishment which injects technology, patriarchy, and capitalism into every step of a woman's pregnancy, labor and birth, thus insuring early indoctrination into this Earth-killing, technocratic society.

**No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth!
No Compromise in Defense of Earth Mothers!**

A Hip Mama

RAGIES!

BY JILL ONDREY

So, you're a childless activist and you just can't see how parent/child issues affect you? Well, they do, and they affect the movement overall, too. We can either include children and parents into our activism and really contribute something positive to the next generation, or we can let the overpopulation issue create divisions between us.

I hope that by sharing some personal experiences you will be able to understand the need for change in this movement's attitude about activists having children.

The first time I felt belittled for choosing to be a mother was two days before I gave birth to my daughter. I was at an EF! "No Thanks" Thanksgiving feast. In my early stages of labor I listened in on a conversation that started something like this, "Can you believe she's having another kid?!" I won't go into details, but that particular conversation just kept feeding itself into a frenzy against activists who are having babies. In the presence of another's home, I simply slunk into the other room to prepare for my next contraction.

I now live with my beautiful daughter in a community that is set up for activists to be able to live-out the lifestyle that they promote through their activism. There are many wonderful people who pass through and live in the community who are aware of parent/child needs. They contribute as a community, and I am grateful for them. However, many activists don't have a clue. I have come to the conclusion that when an activist sponges off struggling mothers for food, gas, and money, that there is an awareness problem.

What we need is awareness and action! As activists we spend endless hours educating ourselves about many different issues. So let's also learn



raising another generation of activists. If we teach positive activism and include the children in our movement, they will become adults that care for, protect, and defend the Earth and each other. Helping the next generation stand up for what they believe in is a necessary part of our effectiveness today—and tomorrow!

about parent/child issues and help keep this movement alive and healthy. The best resource for educating yourself is your local activist mama or papa. Ask them about their needs and how you can help. Ask the kids too. To get you started, here's a few suggestions:

- Q Get to know kids and parents.
- Q Offer to get a nursing mama food or drink.
- Q Make yourself available to hold or watch children—even when they cry.
- Q Offer to watch children so parents can attend workshops and discussions.
- Q Realize that kids are the next generation: treat them with respect and listen to them.
- Q Volunteer at kids' camp.
- Q Come up with creative ways to teach kids about respecting the Earth and each other.
- Q Recognize that parenting is hard work and is a contribution to the community or campaign.

The greatest outcome of our efforts is that we will be

Womyn's Choice and Responsibility to Community and the Earth

BY WOLVERINE

When I was 21 I had an abortion. It was an unnerving experience in societal techno-alienation, in which my partner was barred from the experience, I was tranquilized, vacuumed out, then not even escorted as I walked down the long fluorescent-lit glaring hallway to my bed of sorrow. There was no ceremony, no processing of what happened, no friends there to comfort me.

Ten years later, I was pregnant by choice. When I gave birth, midwifery was illegal in Canada, but nonetheless, midwives gave me incredibly nurturing, professional care, the way I wanted it—at home—making the experience our positive direct action. I chose to have my child after long deliberation. This commitment is for the lifetime of the parent and has implications for future generations. The birthing decision has ramifications not just to the mother, but to the new life, the partner, and all other beings—not just humans. My advice is don't have a child unless you're absolutely sure you want a child, as it is guaranteed to change your life in many ways.

However, you needn't stop being an activist if you have a child. That would be doing yourself, the child, other people, and the Earth a disservice. My son was in my womb during a Greenpeace action on the Columbia River, at a court appearance for that action, and in a White Train Action where I wore a sign over my belly reading, "seven months pregnant." By one month of age, he was accompanying me on long hikes, meetings, and direct actions. I wrote articles for the Earth First! Journal while he napped, and throughout his life I have continued to take him to most of the actions, meetings, and conferences I attend. He is starting to contribute to meetings and participate in workshops such as Copwatch and Blockading Techniques. He also knows how to field check a timber sale, can identify many wild plants and animals, and likes to think up creative direct action blockading methods. He's convinced he could run our activist organization more effectively than we could, and given time, he probably could!

But, he's still a kid, who will with equal fervor discuss a political subject or the latest Star Trek book. Letting kids be kids is really important, for that's when they develop a close, intuitive relationship with the Earth and animals. Kids need Nature, friends, and supportive family, but I reject the notion that parents should give up activism to give their kids the mainstream Amerikan version of childhood, complete with a plethora of competitive sports (preparing a war-like mentality), vicious fads and fashion conformity, cliquishness, military recruiting in the schools, war toys, video games promoting killing, computer and T.V. passivity and alienation, etc. Kids will better benefit from their parents following their own path of continuous growth and enlightenment, setting an example, and taking them along on the ride of biocentric action and growing awareness.



COPULATE, DON'T POPULATE!

Vasectomy is the way to be, it's good for you and it's good for me

Chorus:

ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, aah aah aah
ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, aah aah aah
copulate don't populate,
copulate don't populate

Tubal ligation is lots of fun,

you get no kids, but you get valium

Chorus

Too many people, not enough trees,
it's time to get a grip on the birds & bees

Chorus

I'll have you're kids, I'll wipe their shot,
barefoot and pregnant, NOT!

Chorus

*written as the sun was setting over the
Siskiyou mountains, after 1 bottle of tequila,
by 2 wild wimmin, before they had their 3 kids!*

Misanthropic Mamas for Wilderness, Unite!

BY MOLLIE MATTESON

Maybe this isn't a common problem. Maybe you've decided to have children and see no conflict with your environmental principles. Maybe you have chosen not to have any children because you didn't want to contradict your environmental principles. Quite possibly you do not feel torn, as I do, by dual passions: love of wild Nature, and love of your own children. However, if you do, I would like to hear from you. I am a walking contradiction who would appreciate some company.

As a teenager, I became conscious of the threats to our future from the Evil Empire, nuclear Armageddon, and a depleted ozone layer. By the time I read the Ehrlichs' Population Bomb, I had all the reasons I needed to choose a life without offspring. I felt no instinct to reproduce and nurture a baby, and in any event, what kind of future would they have?

In my late twenties, I got pregnant. It was not an "accident." My husband had made up his mind long ago that he wanted children. We disagreed vehemently for a time. When my job leading families on guided trips through Yellowstone Park brought me in contact with kids I found charming, smart, and fun, I began to think differently about having children and parenting.

I finally changed my mind about having kids when I began to wonder if I might someday regret not having them. This is not a very noble reason for producing a child, but then again, I don't believe Nature intended to rely on our nobility in order to continue the species.

And so, my husband and I had a daughter. Three years later, we had a son. If not a population bomb, then a population grenade had certainly exploded in our household.

From misanthrope to mother, I have been on an unexpected journey. Now I want to snuggle every baby I see, and am so taken with the magic and power of birth that I am considering becoming a midwife. I smile at pregnant women. I want to tag after new families with their fresh little infants, just so I can catch a whiff, once again, of that uniquely sweet and powerful fragrance of love, when a baby is born to willing parents.

I love my children wildly, desperately, proudly, happily, and I also continually struggle to be more patient and attentive to them. No experience has rewarded me more, spiritually and emotionally.

But I was trained as an ecologist. The reality I see is that the growth of the human population has meant, and will continue to mean, a diminishment of the diversity and abundance of other species, as well as a decrease in the extent of wild, undisturbed habitat around the world. I simply cannot persuade myself that more people, be they mine or anyone else's, is a plus for the planet.

As a long-time reader of the Earth First! Journal, Wild Earth, and other biocentric publications, I have seen plenty of arguments against human breeding. And although I sympathize with the basic logic they contain, I cringe when I read these pieces. This is partially out of guilt: I'm a breeder twice over. But there is also in such writings, perhaps inevitably, a grating self-righteousness, an emptiness, and a pitiable dullness with regard to what the vast majority of human beings find most precious and worthwhile in their lives. Can such a gap—between "anti-natalists," who often are the staunchest defenders of wild places and creatures, and parents, who may or may not be environmentalists but are undoubtedly in the majority worldwide—ever be bridged?

Over the years I've read a couple of essays that take on this difficult question. The argument goes basically like this: I am a hard-core eco-warrior. I love the wilderness and I fight to protect it. I am also a parent. I am going to do my best to raise my kid(s) to feel the same way I do, and who knows, maybe biophilia is genetic, so this will be an ultimate gain for the planet despite the resources my kid(s) is going to use up.

I would sure like to buy into this argument. It would make my conscience rest much easier. But I find it unconvincing. There is a frightening tone of elitism, along the lines of "My kids are superior to other kids, because I am a superior parent (philosophically, genetically)."

Then there is the notion that parents can or should have control over what their children become, how they think, or what their aspirations should be. However, my children's spirits are their own and I cannot feel comfortable with appropriating them in any way, including trying to shape them so I can rationalize having kids in the first place. As parents, all we can do is to provide food and shelter and love for our little nestlings, and then when they can fly, they go where they will. They cannot, and will not, exist to satisfy our own principles, though we can hope that their own principles closely resemble ours.

The conundrum of having children is that it is completely selfish (as the population critics say) and at the same time, demands complete selflessness. And this selflessness is, finally, where the bearing and nurturing of children might be reconciled with the preservation of wilderness and wild things.

I believe that the parental-child relationship is the basis for altruistic behavior. The child learns to be kind to others because he or she has been loved. The adult learns that by being kind to another, she or he experiences and receives love. Between mother and child, this lesson is not simply a mental exercise, but a physiological phenomenon expressed in breastmilk, flowing hormones, and multiplying neurons. Humans learn to be humane mostly from their relations with other people, though some of us have learned this from animals, and even plants, as well.

Whereas some people can experience devotion to a cause, a place, or a species, and can commit their lives to securing a future they have no direct, genetic investment in, I think that many people find the fullest expression of their generosity and love in the enterprise of caring for and protecting their children.

Could it be a good thing for our species that in a future some anti-natalists may dream of, most humans do not experience, or even witness, the relationship of parent to child? Could this be a good thing even for wilderness and wild things? The population critics will cry loudly, "My goodness, Yes!" But I cannot be so sure.

An argument often used to advance the cause of the humane treatment of animals was that the abuse of animals reflected poorly on the moral character of humans. I should say, in a rather reverse fashion, that the way our society treats childbearing and the rearing of children reflects our attitude toward Nature. And what I see is not reassuring.

If I become a midwife, it will be good for my business if you have lots of babies. But, because I love wolf pups, salmon fry, and spotted owlets as well, I have to admit I hope you choose to limit your reproduction to a small family, if you choose to procreate at all.

Since I am concerned about the impact of the human population on all other planetary life, I have to acknowledge that those who forgo childbearing are performing an ecological service. However, I hope those who do so will consider that our ability as a species to act beneficently and humbly toward the natural world may be contingent on the generosity of spirit and the confidence that humans gain in their relationships with one another. And if this is true, there can certainly be no more powerful school of love, understanding, and mutual giving than that contained in the circle of parent and child.

Papa Bear Goes to the RRR

BY SMOKEY

It is trite but true: being a parent has given a whole new meaning and purpose to my life and activism in Earth First!. In past years at EF! Rendezvous, I've spent too many hours attending long workshops and meetings, but during this recent gathering in Cascadia I followed my child's natural instincts for R & R at the RRR. We hiked the forest trails, swam in the lake, howled at the moon, listened to musicians and poets, and played and laughed with fellow EF! kids of all ages. There was no agenda, no schedule, no plans, but instead, our actions were guided each moment by a spontaneous organic consensus. I dare say I have learned more about the fruits of anarchy from my daughter than from all the treatises and polemics ever printed on paper.

I have learned more about the fruits of anarchy from my daughter than from all the treatises and polemics ever printed on paper.

Introducing my daughter to EF!ers I have known for many years, I felt a greater affinity with them upon seeing the joy in their faces from meeting her. Even those I assumed would be misanthropic, macho, manly men softened and smiled at my child's playful antics, and listened astounded at her uninhibited truths. And it was truly gratifying to see how many loving aunts and uncles offered to hold, feed, or play with her—not just for her sake, but their own. New and old friends welcomed her into our extended tribal family, and made it fairly easy to be a single papa with a toddler at the Rendezvous. I believe our Rendezvous are creating the seedbed for a future ecotopian culture that respects the role of children as natural guides who can teach us new dimensions of joyful play and wonderment in Nature.

"Can't Get Revolution Without Women, Can't Get Revolution Without Children...." —ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT

End Corporate Dominance of Birth!

BIRTH, POLITICS, & CORPORATE PROFITS

BY KAREN BEE

When you think of being pregnant and giving birth (come on guys—try this visualization), where do you envision yourself? If you are healthy and you even consider the hospital, you have just bought into the corporate, governmental, patriarchal mass-marketing of fear-based, high-tech, non-sacred, disempowering birth. This mass-marketing began in the early 1900's with the American Medical Association's attempt to eliminate midwives. They wanted all women in the hospital for the convenience of the doctors, for the training of medical students, for the \$\$\$\$\$\$, and for their egos. Three generations later, 99% of the population is birthing in hospitals, and the mass-marketing and persecution of midwives continues. But, research has shown again and again and again that birth is just as safe at home as in the hospital with the first baby, and even safer at home with the second or subsequent babies. Ego and economics maintains the status quo, as Earth defenders know all too well.

When one steps into a hospital to have a baby, it can be compared to a prison. The hospital rules and regulations are there mostly to protect the staff from malpractice suits and to increase efficiency. This medical model of birthing is designed with the doctor in mind, not the woman and baby!

I have met very few midwives who are there for the \$\$\$\$\$, but are there because they love babies and care about womyn, and are actively resisting the patriarchal, corporate, industrial medical system!

Here are some examples of how technological advances and corporate control of our bodies are manifested:

→The California State Supreme Court ruled that "women do not have a constitutional right to choose their place of birth." Well, if women can't choose, then who's choosing for them? The doctors, the insurance companies, the pharmaceutical corporations, the courts...

→A few years ago, hospitals did not allow men to witness their babies' births. One man resisted this: he locked down to the birth bed and refused to leave his partner's side. This incident started a small revolution which led to laws allowing fathers to be present at births. Direct Action Births. What a concept!

→The number of Cesarean sections (major surgery where the baby is removed through the abdomen) in the U.S. is 25-35%, and in some hospitals as high as 50%. In some developing countries, where technology is considered "modern" and therefore "better," Cesarean rates are

sometimes over 80%! Incentives for Cesareans: doctors make more money for less time, get to use more technology, and can schedule Cesareans at their own convenience. Think of Industrial Forestry—it's the same ideology at work here. In contrast, most midwives' Cesarean rates are between 2-6%.

→Nestle is still pushing formula on at least 39 Third-World countries, causing mothers to stop breastfeeding, leading to massive starvation, illness, and 1,500,000 infant deaths a year. In 1997, Nestle Corporation showed 15% growth in profits, and \$46.8 billion in sales. Boycott the Bastards! Products owned by Nestle include: Celestial Seasonings, Gulden's Mustard, Crunch N Munch, Jiffy Popcorn, Contadina, Calistoga, Perrier, Today Contraceptives, Advil, Anacin, Anbesol, Arthritis Pain Formula, Compound W, Denorex, Primatene, Q-Tips.

→And the list goes on and on. There's genetic testing, cloning, artificial breast milk, artificial uteruses, etc. Meanwhile we are poisoning our planet, creating more and more infertile men and women, who then seek out fertility specialists, who spend millions of dollars a year in the hopes of reproducing. We see a vicious cycle emerging, where the planet and the people lose, and the conglomerates take over. We must Resist to Exist! Birth First!



C-SECTION
Cesarean

"Performing a Cesarean is the one time that truly gives you the feeling of delivering the baby. I remember having my hand in the uterus... I felt a sense of excitement and of power and of personal accomplishment that is not present in a vaginal birth. This is the time the obstetrician truly delivers the baby; in a vaginal birth, it is the mother."

-From a male obstetrician, as quoted in "A Woman in Residence."

Midwifery: The Art and History

BY JILL COHEN

Midwifery is as old as time. The word midwife means "with woman." Traditionally, the knowledge of birth was passed from woman to woman, generation to generation. As medicine evolved, birth became increasingly more technocratic. Women started to hand their power over instead of being empowered by the birth experience. In the 1970's, women and midwives started the Natural Birth Movement, fighting to take back the sacred ground of birth. A new surge of normal, more natural birth occurred.

About 98% of birthing women, left uninterrupted, without intervention and with loving support, will birth without complications. Once we start intervening in natural birth with technology and medicine, one thing leads to another, and birth becomes an array of wires, probes, machines, and in over 35% of the cases in U.S. hospitals—a surgical procedure.

Birth is a time of transformation. It's a spiritual,

emotional, physical journey. It is life and death, it is our future, and it matters! Midwives are dedicated to creating natural, positive births, because our children are the future, and we must take responsibility. I believe midwives hold the future to keeping birth natural. Let us not forget the gifts that Mother Nature has given us, for in these gifts lay the wisdom which brings forth all life.

Ed. Note: Today in many states, homebirth with midwives is still illegal. Many midwives are currently being investigated, harassed, and even jailed because they offer homebirth services, thus threatening the corporate industrial medical dominance over women's bodies. Yet, these midwives continue to practice, often working "underground." These are courageous acts of resistance and ongoing direct actions by these defiant midwives. It is important that we acknowledge these sister warriors as they work to protect women, babies, and the birthing process.

Birthing the Future

BY CATIA JULIANA

If we, as a species, have any hope of rekindling a relationship with the Earth, we must start with a critical examination of the way birth is controlled and managed. Just as the bonding process between a newborn and mother is disrupted when the child is taken and isolated in a nursery, fed sugar water, circumcised, injected, inspected, and kept from the arms and breast of a loving mother, so is our bonding with Mother Earth disrupted when we are born with the use of unnecessary technologies, medications, and surgeries. These interventions are also dangerous—not only to the health and welfare of the mother and child—but dangerous in the larger implications for our species and our relationship to Wildness. The raw power and wildness of birth defies Western science's paradigm of domination over Nature. The current medical model fears birth, fears women, and seeks to control, subjugate, and dominate the power of Nature.

But birth teaches us that we must accept Nature on Her terms. It teaches us the power of the rushing spring river, the force of the exploding volcano, the electricity of the lightning bolt. These images come close to describing Nature's force as labor contractions surge through the birthing woman's body, as she surrenders to the will of the elements, as she lets go of her culturally-conditioned idea that she can control Nature. Because, really, she can't. Current patriarchal

medical practices make us think that we can, but just like damming a river, just like replanting an eroded, clear-cut hillside, just like burying nuclear waste, all of our technological advances cannot circumvent the forces of Nature. Nature Bats Last. And birth is our first experience with Nature. It's a hell of a good place to start accepting and acknowledging this awesome power.

*But just like damming a river,
just like replanting an eroded,
clear-cut hillside, just like
burying nuclear waste, all of our
technological advances cannot
circumvent the forces of Nature.
Nature Bats Last.*

We as a movement should respect the power of natural birth, regardless of our own personal reproductive choices, while working to protect the birthing mothers in our community. If we really were a tribe, our pregnant women (and there really are very few of them) would be greatly respected, ferociously protected and defended, and generously loved and cared for. They would be supported

in their birthing choices, and they would receive invaluable help from friends and "family" in the daunting task of raising up their children.

We need to see these children as community members. We need to create a community where activist mamas and papas can continue their work. We need to restore a very natural protective instinct toward our own kin. We need to have a vision for our future, for a future beyond the life span of our own activism, one that reaches generations ahead, and which sees the potential for restoring our connection and bond to our Earth Mother.

Suggested Reading List

The Death of Nature, Carolyn Merchant
Feminism and the Mastery of Nature, Val Plumwood
Staying Alive: Women, Ecology & Development, Vandana Shiva
Hip Mama Magazine
Midwifery Today Magazine (issue 45 particularly)
The American Way of Birth, Jessica Midford
Silent Knife, Cohen & Estner
Witches, Midwives and Nurses, Barbara Ehrenreich
Fertile Ground: Women, Earth, and the Limits of Control, Irene Diamond
Birth as an American Rite of Passage, and *Cyborg Babies: From Techno-Sex to Techno-Tots*, Robbie Davis-Floyd
A Woman in Residence, Michelle Harrison
Our Stolen Future, Colburn, Dumanoski, and Meyers
Immaculate Deception, Suzanne Arms
Homebirth, Sheila Kitzinger
Maybe One: An Environmental and Personal Argument for Single-Child Families, Bill McKibben
Movies: *Mindwalk*, *The Sorceress*, *Gattica*

Midwifery Contacts

Coalition for Improving Maternity Services cims@healthy.net
MANA-Midwives Alliance of North America www.mana.org
CfM-Citizens for Midwifery, PO Box 82227, Athens, GA, 30608

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Thanks to all contributors! There were lots of great articles, but regrettably, not enough space to print them all.

For those of you who recognize the errors of your ways in these rantings, repent and babysit!

Mama Love & Bear Hugs to Kelsey Cascadia, Kiayvah, Taro, Jojo, Olivia, Trillian, Sarah, Caitlin, Summer, Stratton, Sasha, Sequoia, Meagan, Nate, Hazel, Amelina, Conrad, Chloe, Heather, Jasper, Ayani, Meadow, and all other Kids For the Wild!

PEDESTRIANS COUNTER CAR CHARGE IN NYC

BY BILL BROWN

"To the barricades!"

Formerly a revolutionary rallying cry—a call to urban revolutionaries to construct and defend barricades against the intrusions of the forces of order—this slogan has been captured by the forces that govern New York City and is now used for reactionary purposes. At least in Mayor Giuliani's New York, "to the barricades!" is now something that a cop might yell to a pedestrian: "Get back behind those pedestrian barricades!"

When the barricades were originally installed two days before Christmas last year, the three-foot-tall metal pedestrian barricades, forcing people to walk several blocks out of their way in order to cross the street, were clearly labeled an "experiment" in congestion control. They were to remain in place through the holiday season, until January 5, 1998, at which time their effectiveness was to be evaluated. The huge area in which this "experiment" was conducted, every intersection along 49th and 50th Streets between five major avenues, encompasses some of New York City's most popular tourist attractions, including Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral and the window displays at Saks Fifth Avenue.

This area of Manhattan is especially packed full of pedestrians during the holiday season, but pedestrians dominate it during the rest of the year as well. During any hour of any weekday, it is estimated that pedestrians outnumber cars in this area of midtown Manhattan by a ratio of ten-to-one.

Quite obviously, the only sensible solution to the problem of super-congestion in midtown is to reduce the number of cars pouring into it, rather than trying to keep the throngs of pedestrians out of the intersections. Auto-free or pedestrian-only zones seem especially appropriate for a massive metropolis that is unique in that you don't have to own a car.

Mayor Giuliani, who was elected in 1993 and 1997 by the car-driving conservative voters of Staten Island and Queens, steadfastly opposes the creation of car-free zones anywhere in New York. During his first term, his administration proposed the installation of pedestrian barricades in midtown, but this proposal was soundly rejected by the Midtown Mobility Task Force.

Not surprisingly, now that the barricades are in place they are a complete failure. Designed to allow motor vehicles to make turns onto one-way streets without having to contend with pedestrians, the barricades must be constantly guarded by police officers. They are supposed to see to it that pedestrians obey the

signs that tell them not to cross the street between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., despite the plainly visible "walk" signals. If drivers save any time at all, which is doubtful, it is only one-tenth of the time lost by pedestrians. According to studies done at the end of January 1998 by Transportation Alternatives, automobile traffic did not move any more freely because of the barricades; traffic conditions remained grid-locked.

As a result, the barricades are hated by both

pedestrians and the police officers assigned to enforce the no-walking zones. According to a poll conducted by the TV station NY 1 and the *Daily News*, 70 percent of the people who live in New York favor reducing congestion and pedestrian injuries by enforcing existing traffic regulations; only seven percent support the use of pedestrian barricades.

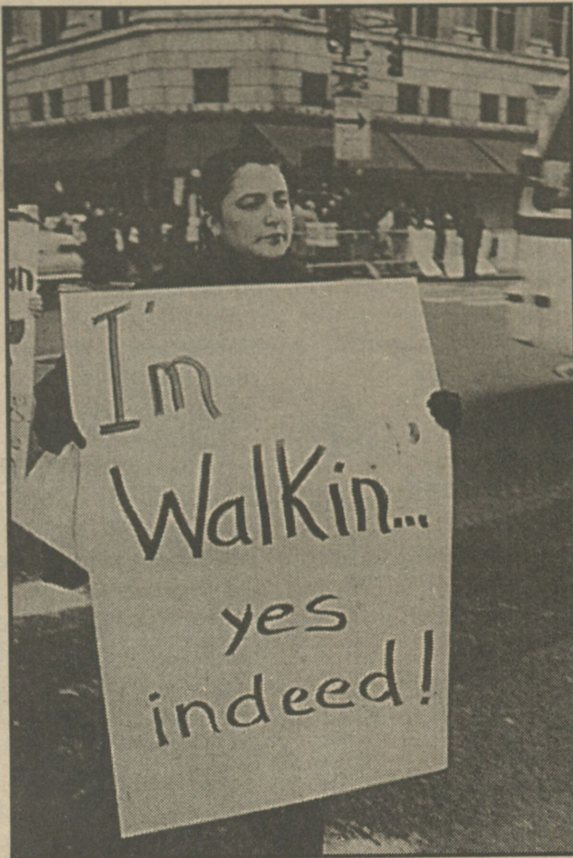
Critics of the barricades have been vocal in their opposition. Giuliani's response to these criticisms has been typical. He got the City Council to raise the jaywalking fine from \$2 to \$50, and now he wants to raise it again to \$100.

The first big protest against the pedestrian barricades was organized by Transportation Alternatives and featured a group of people dressed up as cows to express their desire to not be treated like human cattle. An essentially silly protest—"Re-mooooooove the barricades!" was a typical slogan—it nevertheless received a great deal of media attention and placed the issue in the public eye.

Dissatisfied that Transportation Alternatives did not follow-up on its first demonstration, Time's Up!, a group of bicycle riders that conducts regular traffic-calming rides through the city's streets, organized a second demonstration in mid-January. Though the protesters were numerous, placard-bearing and quite visible (they marched back and forth in one of the intersections), the demonstration was hardly covered by the media. Bolder steps were clearly needed.

The weekend of January 17-18, 1998, a strike team of bicycle-riding activists launched a massive graffiti attack on the area in which the barricades are installed. According to news reports broadcast the following day, every single no-walking sign had the word "Go" painted on it; arrows were drawn on the streets pointing right through the barricades; and the phrases, "The barricades suck" and "Ban all private cars from Manhattan" were spray painted on sidewalks and the walls of buildings. While NBC-TV's report emphasized that writing graffiti is considered vandalism and criminal mischief, both the WB/Channel 11 and New York 1 left their viewers with the definite impression that the barricades do indeed suck.

For more information, contact Bill Brown, POB 1115, NY, NY 10009-9998; yes@nomadlab.com.



Criminal street crossing in NYC

photo by Peter Mettler

CALLING ALL SQUATTERS

BY CARLO TRESKA

Sometime in the murky past, a plan was hatched to decimate a place of unparalleled beauty. Urban planners, car and oil corporations, government agencies, elected officials and other assorted nasties all agreed on one thing: progress and damn the consequences!

In the southeast corner of Minneapolis lies a treasure not often seen in the midst of a city. Situated along the edge of the mighty Mississippi River is a small urban wilderness home to steep river gorges, rare remnants of oak savanna (an ecosystem that once stretched many miles as the border between Eastern hardwood forests and endless Western prairie), countless critters and Minnehaha Falls, perhaps the crown jewel. At the north end of Minnehaha Park, a short walk takes you to areas unchanged since European settlers arrived. Three hundred year old bur oaks abound along the edges of the fragile river gorges leading down to Minnehaha Creek and the Mississippi.

Back in the days when grand road schemes were all the rage, urban planners said, "Let's expand Hiawatha Avenue (running from downtown out to the airport and passing along the west side of the park) into a ten lane highway." Millions were spent on relocating people from their homes. Even back then people realized ten lanes was a bit much, even if the road was to connect downtown to the airport and the Mall of America (the second largest mall in the world). Portions of the expansion were implemented, but when they got to portioning off the road adjoining the park, they hit a bottleneck—influential politicians on one side and the river on the other. Suddenly a flash of inspiration—what better to do than reroute the highway through the park. Who cares if it crushes a neighborhood? Who cares if it destroys a unique ecosystem full of old-growth trees? Does it matter if the highway comes within a hundred feet of the river on its path through the park?

Isolated resistance to the plan has been ongoing for 40 years, but it is hard to beat a plan that never dies, only changes ever so slightly through the decades. Several years ago people came to the sad realization that the road project would not go away and formed a coalition to stop it.

To the glee of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), it all seemed to be for naught. Overwhelming support for stopping the reroute was

expressed. Over 8,000 signatures were collected in opposition to the reroute, but the coalition was told the signatures had no relevance. A lawsuit to stop the road was thrown out on technical grounds. The fact that MnDOT's plan violates federal law by using federal money to build a highway through park land was not even considered. A park board meeting was held to quell the issue, and coalition members were not even allowed to speak. Blow by blow, it seemed this stampeding herd of career road-builders and their cohorts could not be stopped.

Fortunately, several formidable obstacles to the road remain. The lawsuit has been appealed, which gives the opposition time to reroute some legal footing. MnDOT, however, is proceeding with its scheme. Unless an injunction is granted, the lawsuit could be rendered moot by the continuing destruction.

Over the years, MnDOT quietly bought out the residents in the path of the reroute, but one woman and her husband refuse to sell out. Carol Kratz, who has lived in her small house on the edge of the park for 40 years, has fought off several eminent domain eviction notices and remains in her home in defiance of MnDOT and other political cronies conspiring to push this insanity through.

Big Woods Earth First! has set up an encampment, known as Camp Two Pines, next to Carol's house. We desperately need dedicated activists to come to the front lines. Houses on either side of Carol's are slated to be razed as early as August 10. We are conducting nonviolence trainings and other skill-building workshops, monitoring the situation and organizing resistance. Come and get involved, or if you can't do that send us cash. Contact Big Woods Earth First!, POB 580936, Mpls, MN 55458; (612) 362-3387; earthfirst@juno.com.



Carol Kratz stands in the way of a ten-lane highway

photo courtesy of Big Woods Earth First!

ECO-TERRORISM ON CAPITOL HILL, CONT. . .

continued from front page

Yet Rogers has done a heroic job of creating an ever expanding fantasy spin on the occupation, wherein the pepper spraying is forgotten and the calm and amused demeanor she displays on videotape during the incident becomes abject terror as she feared for her life at the hands of menacing terrorists. In Rogers' world, a boisterous office sit-in transmutes into a terrorist bomb attack.

The protesters wheeled a stump into the office as a lock-down prop. It was a big stump, and, as Rogers described, the "resulting crashing sound reverberated throughout the building, shaking walls and rattling windows. (We were later told by many of the people in the office building they had thought a bomb had gone off, so significant was the noise.)" Roger implied threats of rape or murder towards herself and other staffers from a masked activist, describing her fear at "not knowing what [the activist] meant to do to her. Her conclusion about the lockdown/office occupation? "These are hate crimes."

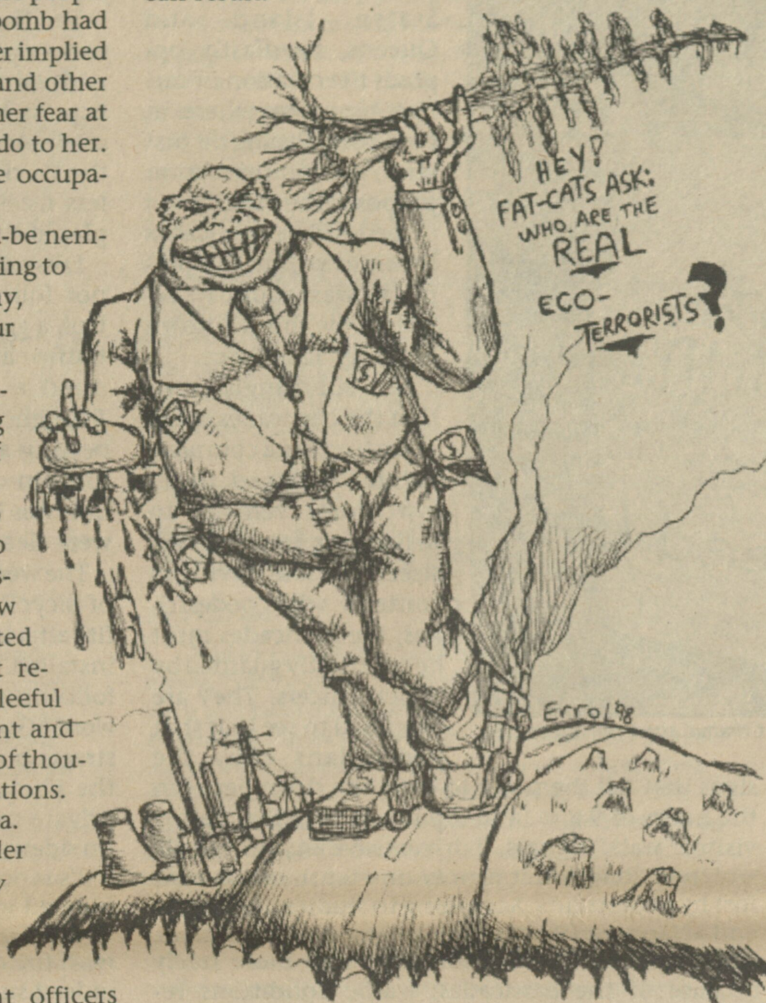
Next up was Earth First!'s favorite would-be nemesis, Barry Clausen, ready with a stern warning to the nation: "[Earth First!] advocates anarchy, revolution and terrorism to the youth of our country." If only...

Ever the conspiracy theorist, Clausen regards the independent lawsuits that sprang up as a result of the pepper-spraying of activists in Humboldt and Eugene, Oregon, as an organized tactical move designed to "intimidate law enforcement officials into reluctance to make arrests for fear of reprisals through additional lawsuits, to limit law enforcement's ability to take those arrested into custody, and deplete county court resources." True enough, EFlers have taken gleeful delight in watching both law enforcement and court expenses rack up into the hundreds of thousands as a result of overzealous prosecutions. Maybe there's something to Clausen's idea.

Clausen also refers to "attempted murder and murder itself," laying responsibility for unnamed killings at EFl's door. He implies that he has in his hand a whole list of ugly terrorist attacks perpetrated by EFl which "federal law enforcement officers within federal agencies known to myself" could attest to, were they not intimidated by their own superiors and agency heads.

Why would federal officials suppress investigations of environmental terrorism? The answer is not in Clausen's testimony but is found in other publications he writes for that describe a global eco-

conspiracy headed by Prince Philip of England and the World Wildlife Fund, which has been exposed by Clausen's friends and occasional co-authors from a weird organization run by Lyndon Larouche. But let's not go there now, it leads only to madness. Ron Arnold, the scholar among industrial extremists, also testified. In his statement before the committee, Arnold really pushes the definitional envelope of "terrorism," applying it to misdemeanor trespass offenses like blockading and trespassing. Another claim Arnold makes to take note of: corporations under-report ecoterrorism because, "loss of customer confidence and resulting drops in share prices" can result.



Interestingly, Arnold's movement analysis has made him one of EFl's better theory and strategy advisors. For instance, he testified about our strategy of "de-coupling," by which he means "a set of techniques denying the crime while deploring the conditions that caused the perpetrators to become

so frustrated they committed the crime. Thus decoupling throws blame for the crime on the victim while it denies guilt." Of course, he's exaggerating the typical environmentalist's practice of wearing a lot of hats, i.e., Johnny is an EFler, works for NWNFCNBDP (an appeal/litigation nonprofit) and volunteers for the non-hierarchical Forest Consensus Network. Understandably, Arnold is also confused by the movements lack of consensus about appropriate tactics (to monkeywrench or not to monkeywrench, for example).

Arnold also brought a little agenda to Congress, namely to lobby for an amendment to the Animal Enterprise Protection Act of 1993. This law provides stiff federal penalties for criminal actions against fur farms and other livestock-based businesses. Arnold would extend that protection to loggers, miners, fisherpeople, farmers and ranchers with a Resource Enterprise Protection Amendment. He wants to federalize crimes of property damage of \$10,000 or more and provide for "citizen attorneys general," allowing parties targeted by "ecoterrorism" to initiate prosecution in federal court. This amounts to open season on environmental activists and special protections for Earth despoilers.

Last to testify, but by no means least, was the spluttering Frank Riggs himself, current "representative" of the California district containing Headwaters forest. Among the statements in his sworn testimony before the subcommittee: "In Ukiah, California... [monkeywrenching] killed a logger." However, Riggs' office did not return calls requesting documentation of this charge.

Echoing Barry Clausen, Riggs asserted that radical environmentalists, EFlers in particular, exist "to sap local resources by tying up law enforcement and clogging the judicial system," leading to cuts in education that "hurt our children" and "force roads into disrepair and sidewalks to crumble." I like that last one. It is possible that Riggs is trying to lay the groundwork for some kind of blanket legal injunction against lawsuits filed by activists injured during an action for which they are convicted of an "ecoterror" crime. We'll see.

Riggs too brought a legislative agenda with him, recommending to the subcommittee that the provisions of the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute be extended to include the "illegal activities" of Earth First!-type organizations. Says Riggs, "Earth First! engages in a deliberate, orchestrated, systematic criminal conspiracy that should be punishable under the RICO statute." While RICO has been used successfully, for example, in the limited venue of a Grangeville, Idaho, court to find EFlers liable in civil proceedings, the law as it currently exists has never been used to criminally prosecute civil disobedience activities as federal racketeering crimes. But if Riggs has his way, "[Earth First!] and all organizations like it should be treated as all terrorist organizations are treated in this nation: as wanton criminals."

While the abject preposterousness of the testimony might lead direct action environmentalists to be less than overly alarmed by the proposed legislative actions, these hearings before Rep. McCollum's crime subcommittee may serve as more than a dog and pony show for the constituents back home. This stuff definitely bears watching. If we ignore it, it could bite us. If we expose it to public scrutiny, we have a better chance of derailing our opponents' efforts. Remember, Rep. McCollum has also invited testimony from the ecoterrorists (us). Please feel free to direct written testimony for the record to:

Representative Bill McCollum, House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime, 207 Cannon, House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515-6216.

Besides McCollum, the committee includes: Steve Buyer (R-IN), Steve Chabot (R-OH), Bob Barr (R-GA), Asa Hutchinson (R-AR), George Gekas (R-PA), Howard Coble (R-NC), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Charles Schumer (D-NY), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Marty Meehan (D-MA), Robert Wexler (D-FL) and Steven Rothman (D-NJ). If any of these people represent your district, call 'em up. Heck, do it even if they don't. You can reach them through the Congressional switchboard at 1-800-985-8762.

There are rumors that Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) will be holding similar hearings in the Senate but no definite word as of this writing. Keep your eyes peeled.

HOW TO TRACK NUKE SHIPMENTS

Attention Net-heads and nuclear foes: Nukewatch, a Wisconsin-based nuclear watchdog, has discovered how to track and follow the masses of spent nuclear waste the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Energy (DOE) are slickly railroading around the country.

Inquiring minds at Nukewatch found out that the DOE uses a computer tracking system called TRANSCOM to monitor shipments of some of the radioactive waste and weapons that travel on trucks, trains and boats. This tracking is done by satellite transmission, computers and ground communication via the TRANSCOM Control Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Although Nukewatch hasn't been invited to join the tracking network, they have managed to uncover and expose some of the information the government doesn't necessarily want you to know. For example, federal documents reveal that more than 500 shipments of high-level nuclear waste from the Navy have already been sent to the Idaho National Engineering Lab near Pocatello.

The waste comes from foreign countries and reactors aboard Navy vessels. Charleston Naval Weapons Station in California receives waste from 41 countries. Nukewatch found that in one shipment alone there were 280 spent fuel elements from Colombia, Chile, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden, all headed to Idaho. Apparently the US

takes this highly radioactive waste because it contains plutonium that can be used for manufacturing nuclear weapons.

The process for tracking the waste is simple for anyone with access to a telephone or the Internet. The DOD uses two types of casks called DODXs to railroad the waste. To track these DODX cars go to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe web page at <http://www.bnsf.com/cws/eqptrace/eqptrace.html>. Then check out the Union Pacific car trace system at <http://www.my.uprr.com/level1/pet/>. The directions for tracking are explained within each system. The date listed for each car on the tracing systems is the last time the car was moved or delivered. If there is no information for a car, it has not been moved for a long time. (Updates on active cars happen every few minutes to every three hours.)

If you don't have Internet access, shipments can still be tracked by telephone. Find out the location of cars by calling the Delaware and Hudson railroad (800) 777-4499, Burlington Northern (800) 342-5123, Union Pacific (800) 634-2204, Southern Pacific (800) 756-7777, Conrail (800) 228-4661, CSX (800) 235-2352 or Norfolk and Southern (800) 241-9230.

Each one has a car-tracing system with instructions. Be friendly and curious. It isn't classified information. Happy tracking.

ALASKA'S COPPER RIVER DELTA

continued from front page

Moose, bear and wolves roam over vast, uninterrupted marsh land. Mosquitoes and biting flies are nightmarishly successful. The countless miles of creeks and streams patiently winding their way to the ocean are the spawning grounds for millions of salmon. Spruce forests, alder thickets, fields of devil's club and boundless expanses of various grasses grow in a psychedelic mosaic of greens and yellows. Unless you've been here, you've never seen anything like it.

Sergeant Jeff Edmunson was the first law enforcement officer to arrive on the scene. "Hey Jeff, we were wondering about the heavy machinery they've been driving through the creek. Isn't that illegal?" asked one of the activists. Jeff ignored him. Expertly assessing the situation, he retired to the security bus, where he exchanged his Fish and Game cap for a more authoritative Alaska State Trooper baseball hat. Poking his head under one of the bridge pieces, he pled with the trolls, "So if I ask you to leave, will you?" "No!" was their emphatic reply. More troopers from around the state trickled in throughout the day. When night fell, one chainsaw blade had been ruined in an encounter with the doorway to a troll's den. A successful experiment with a pair of bolt cutters had extracted two of the trolls, but four more remained safely behind, sharing watermelon with Busty. The assembled team of cops kicked the dirt. "They've got us stymied," one trooper remarked to another. They retired eventually to sleep on their dilemma.

The Carbon Mountain Project would slice a 29-mile access road across the pristine east delta in order to access the Carbon Mountain/Bering River region. The road would announce the arrival of massive development—possibly coal extraction, the re-opening of several oil wells, and a slurry line for natural gas and oil production, all in addition to the primary goal of clearcutting 8,000 acres of old-growth rainforest on Eyak land.

The project is even more sinister when you understand the forces driving it forward. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 formally established the Native peoples of Alaska as a set of corporations. Rather than creating reservations and signing bogus land treaties, the US government opted for a policy of assimilation into corporate structure. Native Alaskans are not recognized as stewards or citizens of their tribe or nation but as shareholders in American corporations. Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC), one such Native corporation, is the developer behind the Carbon Mountain Project. CAC needs this project to keep up the appearance of "progress," even though it would make virtually no profits. The Asian market for Alaskan timber has fallen apart, and there are no indications that this recession will reverse itself in the near future. After it went bankrupt in 1991, CAC sold its Bering River coal fields to a joint venture partner, Korea Alaska Development Company (KADCO). ANCSA encourages these native corporations to protect their quarterly

cash flow instead of protecting Native culture or heritage. Surely, KADCO will soon follow the Carbon Mountain road into the Bering River region where the unearthed coal fields lie.

The Eyak people, this area's native inhabitants, first came here 3,500 years ago. In the span of over 100 years, they have lost virtually everything. Chief

explored the delta, monitored the road's progress and formed an affinity with one another in the stunning wilderness of south-central Alaska. Base camp was open to everyone. Many locals took us up on the invitation to visit, including some of the construction workers building the bridge.

By Solstice it was clear that all legal and political avenues had been exhausted and that construction of the bridge over Clear Creek was imminent. Because nonviolent direct action is a new tactic in the fight for Alaska's wild places, the action was an important escalation with far-reaching effects. Most of the environmental struggle thus far has been waged in courtrooms, voting booths and community meetings (as well as isolated instances of sabotage and monkeywrenching).

The community's response to the action was remarkable. An emergency town meeting brought many factions of the community together. Fisherpeople are concerned, the Native shareholders are asking questions, and developers and

corporate officials have some serious explaining to do. State-wide, the mainstream enviros are giddy with excitement over the considerable attention the trolls have drawn. The delta has become a matter of national concern and not a moment too soon. If ever there was a time to come to Alaska, this would be it. A community of resistance is solidifying here. There is very real potential to accomplish fundamental change. Alaska is roughly at the point the American West was at the turn of the last century—wild areas are still wild, strong native cultures retain a living memory, and the rivers still run clear. The Carbon Mountain Project is just one in a long list of proposed and existing sinister development schemes. Wolf kills, oil drilling, strip mining, clearcutting, road building, animal trapping, overfishing and cultural genocide of Native peoples are all part of the last ditch efforts of Manifest Destiny.

After the dust had settled at the construction site, the support crew gathered in back of the Cordova jail, near the small windows on the concrete wall and howled together like wolves. For a moment it was silent. Then, like an echo from a far off canyon, the howls of the engaged trolls came through the walls and lasted through all our long smiles.

For more information from the frontlines, contact the Eyak Rainforest Preservation Fund, POB 460, Cordova, AK 99574; (907) 424-5890; fax 424-5891; dune@redzone.org; www.redzone.org.

Also contact the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and urge them to include the entire Bering River region into the EVOSTC restoration zone and help preserve this intact wild place forever. Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, Attn: Molly McCammon, 645 G St., suite 401 Anchorage, AK, 99501; (800) 283-7745; fax (907) 276-7178; Kerih@oilspill.state.ak.us.

We will be holding an action training camp sometime in the late summer or early fall outside of Anchorage. If you are interested in coming up or helping with workshops, please contact Sören Wuerth at POB 230916, Anchorage, AK 99523; (907) 278-2542; fishtree@alaska.net; www.wildvoices.org.



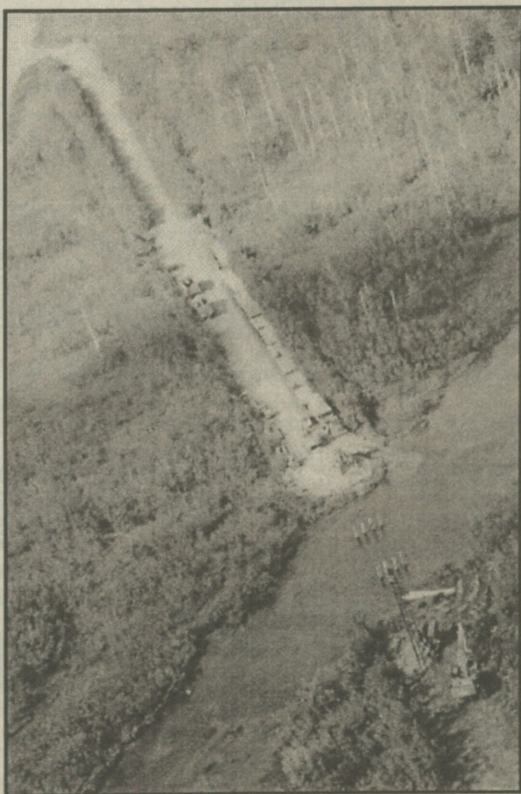
photo by Sören Wuerth

Marie Smith Jones of the Raven clan is the last full-blooded Eyak and the only speaker of the native tongue. The Eyaks are on the brink of becoming the first completely assimilated Alaskan tribe. The Copper River Delta is their sacred homeland, but nothing is sacred in the global marketplace.

The next morning the trolls scrambled to their lockboxes as they heard the approaching police vehicles. "It's not going to be a pleasant day for your friends," an officer told the trolls' support group. The troopers then proceeded to steal the trolls' food, water and mosquito netting. Through a mishap with one lockbox, two more trolls were removed. The last two unlocked in the afternoon of their second day out of fear for their personal safety.

The campaign to save the Copper River Delta began when Dune Lankard, an ANCSA shareholder of both the Eyak Corporation and the Chugach Alaska Corporation and director of the Eyak Rainforest Preservation Fund, began marshaling forces to oppose the road project. Six environmental organizations joined the cause. They are pressuring the state and federal government to use money from the legal settlement of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill to purchase a "comprehensive conservation easement" to preserve the land in its present form and create an economic alternative to the road for Chugach's 1,900 shareholders.

While the environmental groups tried to raise money for a legal battle, a cadre of riff-raff from the Pacific Northwest timber wars combined forces with Cordova locals, Native shareholders and Alaskan activists. They held direct action workshops, ex-



photos by Carol Hoover

One of the 200 streams to be crossed

ROAD RIPPING THROUGH CONGRESS

BY BETHANIE WALDER

Brush up on your road blockading skills and get ready to hit the dirt because even as activists across the country shut down individual roads with real and paper wrenches, Congress legislates a continued Forest Service road building extravaganza. After all, if it isn't paved, it isn't tamed.

The Alaska delegation takes first prize for rolling back the Wilderness Act and circumventing other environmental laws by attempting to legislate a road through the Izembeck National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness. If successful, the bill would weaken the Wilderness Act by establishing a permanent road in a designated Wilderness Area. In addition, Congress has already passed one rider and has another one pending (on the Interior Appropriations bill) to force construction of a route into Denali National Park, one of the few parks in the country that relies on public transportation. But that's not all for Alaska; another proposed rider would legislate construction of a road through the Copper River Delta in one of the richest salmon fisheries in the world (see article page 1).

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21, the reauthorization of the national transportation bill) also included several anti-environmental riders. One in particular authorized the redrawing of the boundaries of Petroglyph National Monument to allow construction of a multi-lane highway. Another TEA-21 rider now allows trucks and jeeps to haul boats across two portage roads in Wisconsin's Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness.

In addition to bad road riders in the Interior Appropriations process, independent bills also address roads on public lands. One such bill proposes to move the Hells Canyon Wilderness boundary to reopen an old fire road along the western rim of the canyon. The area is a critical elk migration route between summer and winter ranges and makes up half of the last 12 miles of unmotorized area along the 50-mile western rim of the canyon.

Congress is also busy with the Forest Service's roads budget. Last year Representatives Porter (R-IN) and Kennedy (D-MA) unsuccessfully offered an amendment to cut the Purchaser Road Credit (PRC) program and limit other direct appropriations for road construction on national forests. This year, Porter has entered into an agreement with Alaska Representative Don Young to end the PRC program in exchange for not offering any other amendments that cut funding for national forest road or timber programs. (Representative Elizabeth Furse (D-OR) was going to offer an amendment to cut both the timber and roads budgets, but the Porter-Young agreement made it apparent that she wouldn't have the votes so she withdrew it.) Cutting the PRC program forces the timber industry to pay for roads it constructs, instead of taxpayers, but it does not stop construction of these roads. While this will have a minor impact on road building on the national forests, it does not get to the heart of the matter, which is setting aside places that are off-limits to roads.

With the development of the long-term roads policy, the Forest Service has begun to look at the ecological impacts of roads. But while Forest Service Chief Dombeck and his staff work to develop this policy, many members of Congress are trying to undermine the possibility of significant changes to road-building as usual. A rider has already been passed that limits the implementation of a proposed moratorium on road construction in roadless areas. Senator Larry Craig's (R-ID) rider subverts the Forest Service's proposed 18-month road building moratorium by requiring

proposed 18-month road building moratorium by requiring substitute logging projects. (As of this writing, the proposed moratorium has still not been announced.) In addition, the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee has written language that would prevent the Forest Service from spending any money on obliterating Forest Service "system roads" until it either obliterates or reconstructs all non-system roads within its jurisdiction. (System roads are Forest Service roads under Forest Service jurisdiction, while non-system roads are those that the Forest Service doesn't include in its transportation "system." These include all those ghost roads recently discovered, which may be old temporary roads that were never removed, user-created roads or roads that were taken off the Forest Service's inventories but were never obliterated. In addition to system and non-system roads, national forests are also cut apart by interstate, state, county, local and private roads that are not counted on the "system.") Dombeck has proposed removing up to 25,000 miles of roads over the next five years. With at least 60,000 miles of ghost roads already acknowledged, it will be a long time before his staff can even consider obliterating system roads if this budgetary proposal becomes law. Similarly, Congress has proposed a mere \$10 million for road obliteration, and \$136 million for construction and reconstruction. It is clear where congressional interests lie, regardless of potential changes in Forest Service road management.

The Interior Appropriations bill, the home of most of these riders and laws, is expected to go to conference committee in mid to late August. Though Vice President Gore held a press conference in June expressing Clinton's opposition to an appropriations bill loaded with anti-environmental riders, it will be up to citizens to ensure the president upholds this opposition by using his veto pen.

More importantly, our actions need to be directed towards long-lasting change, not temporary budgetary solutions (and problems) during the annual appropriations process. Not one more stump; not one more mine; not one more cow; not one more road!

Bethanie Walder is director of Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads. For more information, write POB 7516, Missoula, MT 59807; (406) 543-9551.

Urban Jungles

continued from page 3

A corporate monoculture of chain stores soon springs up, channeling wealth out of the community as developers and politicians laugh all the way to the bank.

One of the main connections between these issues is the activist communities involved. It is amazing to see inner-city anarchists at both squats and treesits, claiming them as autonomous communities. The same forces that are trying to destroy both areas are negated when their access to property and profit are utterly denied. Direct action is the bridge that binds the inner-city struggles of marginalized groups to defense of the wild. If white, middle-class environmentalists, such as factions in the Sierra Club, continue to talk about narrow issues that pit the well-being of marginalized groups against the well-being of the environment, many more people will see them as a part of the system we hate. The struggle for wilderness is a struggle against "the system;" it is against industrialism, capitalism and racism. Our survival depends on the survival of wilderness.

Ed Abbey, despite some of his racist overtones, was wise in saying that wilderness needs less defense and more defenders. Wilderness doesn't care if its defenders are wingnuts, rednecks, hippies, omnivores, hard-core vegans, eco-saboteurs, squatter punks, feminists or inner-city hoodlums. If we want more dedicated and militant people on the frontlines, then it may be necessary to reject the privileges in this movement and make more connections, both practically and philosophically. What matters more than ever is that there are more of us to fight in defense of Mother Earth.

Errol Schweizer is a crusty anarchist from New York City who would rather live in the woods. Feel free to send any correspondence or comments to sagepic@hotmail.com.



ADC TORCHED!

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and Earth Liberation Front (ELF) celebrated this year's summer Solstice on June 21 with bonfires in honor of the wildlife of the great Pacific Northwest at two US Department of Agriculture Animal Damage Control (ADC) buildings in Olympia, Washington. Both buildings were condemned by fire officials who set total damages at upwards of \$400,000.

One building housed research facilities to study the "damage" that deer, beaver, elk, bear and other animals cause to trees. The research was used to formulate repellents to deter these creatures from eating the seedlings

planted in clearcuts. The other ADC facility was a field station for operations to apply these substances to forestlands. The station had been the site of animal rights demonstrations in the past and was the target of a pipe bomb attack last December. The bomb was dismantled by the Washington State Patrol.

Fire fighters responded to the fire at the research building at 2:43 a.m. and to the field station fire at 4:28 a.m. Investigators who found metal bucket handles outside the field station contend that the fire was ignited by fuel-loaded plastic buckets placed outside the garage and office building. The investigators believe that the

buckets contained a plastic foam material soaked in a flammable liquid. The sealed buckets slowed the flames long enough for the arsonists to steal off into the night undetected.

Referring to the saboteurs, Mike Patti, the Thurston County fire district's deputy chief, said, "Whatever they wanted to do, it didn't include hurting anyone." Ted Hendershot, chief of operations for the fire district commented, "This is going to the extreme... This is big time. This is felony time." The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is assisting the US Department of Agriculture and the Washington State Fire Marshall in the investigation.

The ADC program targetted by the saboteurs operates for more than just the timber industry. In fact, more wildlife is deliberately eradicated because of grazing than for any form of public land

abuse. The extermination of predator and "pest" species is paid for by taxpayers through the ADC program. The ADC hunts, traps, poisons and shoots nearly five million animals every year; they target birds, coyote, beaver, deer, prairie dog, mountain lion, bear and many other species. Incredibly, the cost of the ADC is higher than the cost of damage allegedly caused by its animal victims.

The ALF and ELF announced that these actions were done in solidarity with Josh Ellerman who has been indicted on 16 federal counts for charges relating to the building and possession of pipe bombs. Convictions on these charges carry a minimum mandatory sentence of 30 years in prison. These charges stem from the ALF's Operation Bite Back firebombing of the Utah Fur Breeder's Co-op which caused over \$1 million in damages.

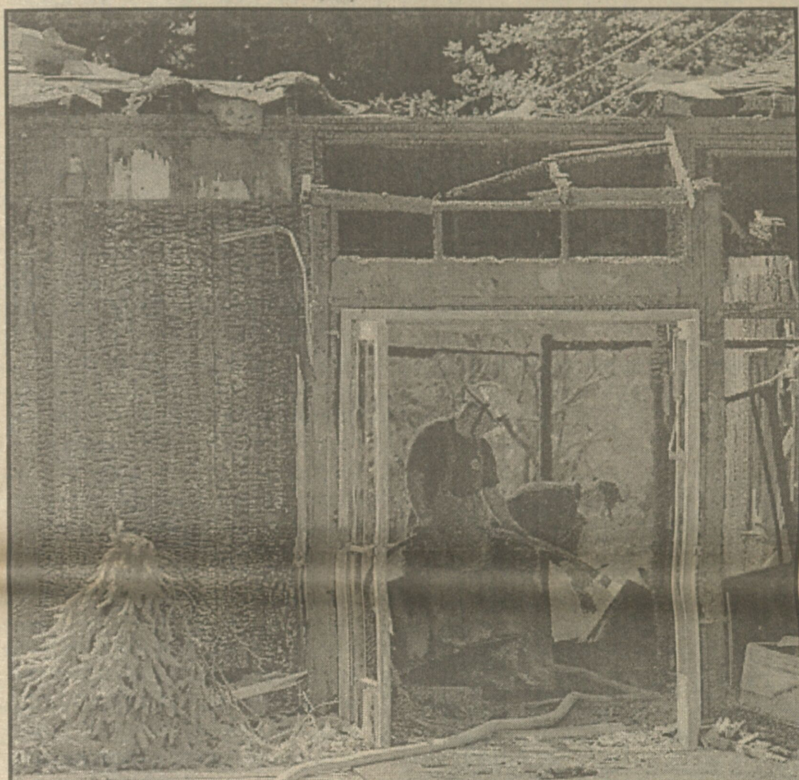


Photo by Paul Haley

The only good ADC building is a charred ADC building!

VIRGINIA ROAD SABBED

Persistent acts of sabotage have stymied work on a \$1.1 million state highway project in Fairfax, Virginia. Since construction began in May, sand has been poured in the gas tanks of heavy equipment on site, and more than 20 tires have been slashed. Survey stakes have been repeatedly plucked along the planned highway corridor. Silt fences have been moved, windshields smashed and porta-potties toppled.

The project drew organized opposition from Fairfax County residents until the state broke ground for the road construction. Now, residents consider it a done deal. Police officials are baffled as to who is responsible for the damages, and politicians blame wayward youths for what they perceive as merely random vandalism. State highway inspector Barry Harrison has admitted that these acts have delayed work and cost the state a great deal of money.

"A contractor anticipates a certain amount of work each day, and then he comes in and finds all his tires are flat," said Harrison. "It clearly affects productivity. It's very frustrating."

MEXICAN CONSULATE HIT

The following is an excerpt from an Earth Liberation Front communiqué that circulated anonymously by fax. "Minutes before midnight on June 28, the building that houses the Mexican Consulate in Boston, Massachusetts, was targeted by the Earth Liberation Front. The unjust government of Mexico is complicit in murdering the indigenous population of Chiapas. Red hand prints, symbolizing the blood on the hands of the Mexican government, were painted on the walls and spilled on the ground. 'Viva EZLN' was spray painted on the entrance. The Earth Liberation Front disappeared into the night, but the blood on the hands of the Mexican government won't easily disappear. *Todos Somos Marcos*. Remember Guadalupe."

GREEN ANARCHIST

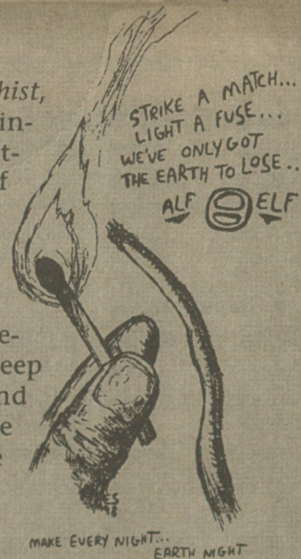
For the destruction of Civilisation

ZINE REVIEW BY EL SUBWAY

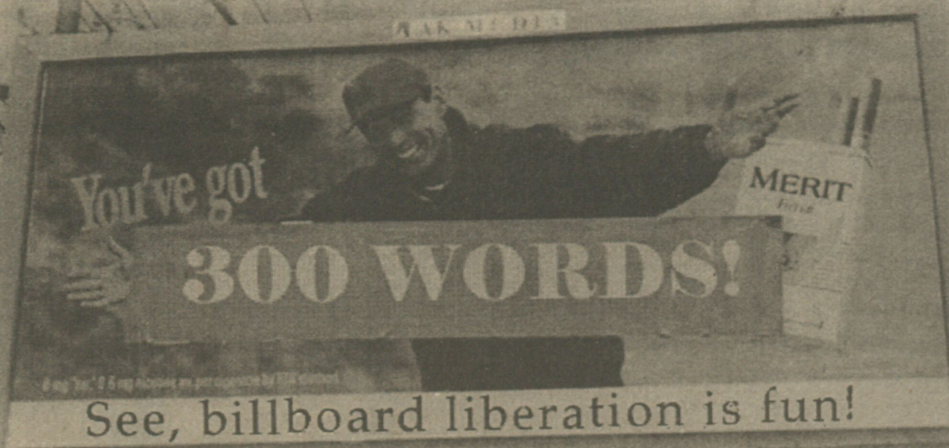
The summer issue of *Green Anarchist*, fresh from Merry Olde England, continues the tradition of insightful reporting on the edges of the radical ecology movement. With a fresh update on the freedom of the GANDALF (Green Anarchist and ALF) political detainees and a pledge to keep fighting the conspiracy and incitement laws that were used to imprison them, the anti-civilizationists unload a full barrel on culture,

community and even punk rock. As usual, the issue includes the ever enlightening and inspiring "Diaries," the day to day accounts of eco-defense, community resistance and animal liberation that, to the editors of GA, are "harbingers of the coming collapse of authority and civilization." There is another contribution to the debate on "anarcho-primitivism" that continually rages in GA and *Fifth Estate*, as well as an essay by Murray Bookchin on the organic communities of pre-civilization. There are also thought-provoking critiques of community and culture by John Zerzan and Hakim Bey. The short essays by Zerzan shed some light on what he expressed in the "Dear Shit for Brains" column of the Litha issue of the *EF! Journal*, namely Zerzan's critique of organizers and community builders. GA #52 also contains a list of developers and building companies in England, complete with addresses and phone numbers, a welcome addition to anyone's "Eco-Fuckers Hit List."

There's also a review section, including a moderate rant about the *EF! Direct Action Manual*. And as usual, there's the mudslinging and trash-talking that the editors of GA are so fond of. GA #52 is a good companion to *Live Wild Or Die* #7 and fills its controversial niche at the lunatic fringe of the ecology movement, giving comfort to the saboteurs, liberationists and earth-night activists: "You are not alone! Keep at it!" To order GA write them at BCM 1715, London WC1N 3XX, England.



Shit for Brains:



continued from page 3
I also agree that temporary leaders or spokes councils would be most beneficial in saving time and allowing us to be more effective. We need strong people to inspire and direct us. After 60 days in jail, writing, reading, and drawing, I am anxious to jump back into the fire.

—GREG MACK

Earth First!

I am blessed again to have your address. This is the beginning of a long and meaningful friendship. Digest me slowly. What you have in me is someone who can write with the sharpness of the sharpest blade you have metaphysically handled. I lament that my priorities will rarely coincide with those of Earth First! So as not to cause a distraction away from your priorities, please buffer yourselves with the awareness that you will address issues of concern to me when you have the time. I am announcing an incursion into the Santa Cruz Nuclear Free Zone. The incursion is of financial nature. The new Community Charter of the Bay Federal Credit Union per Act of Congress has resulted in the obvious illegality of the Lockheed presence in that Federal Credit Union, located at the base of the UCSC campus (next to the 7-11). My address is 1803 Mission St., Suite 140, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. I do receive mail. Sincerely,

—GLENN E. RABENOLD

Ed. Note:

Lockheed Martin manufactures nuclear weapons components, something Lockheed began doing in the mid 1980s after they bought the contract from General Electric.

—JB

Dear Little Mustard-Bastard-Slurry-Fer-Brains,

From the sticky middle of a cicadan summer sleep I awake and write you. I've been a cover-to-cover reader of the *Journal* for 12 years. In that period, I have noted your evolution from a magazine with a predominance of Deep Ecology/biological science issues to one carrying the heavy weight of Direct Action reporting. Direct Action and more: moving, honest editorials; international activism; interactive articles (a cause is written—an address is given—yes, we can input, influence, the outcome). We learn from the *Journal* who exactly the rotten politicians and corporate thugs are, we hear many sides of a controversial debate (violence vs. nonviolence). We discover a clearinghouse of events to attend; poetry, art, car-

toons (the coastal clarity and artistic precision of Vaughn Frick's 'Cascadia' merits space in the Time Capsule). When I say I read the *Journal* cover-to-cover, this reading includes a browse of the list of dedicated staff, working I presume, for moldy _____ and _____ notoriety. Staff rotation is in its usual flux, with a fresh wind of talent and new ideas as befits an "organization" with no leaders. Personally, after receiving each issue of the *Journal*, reading and digesting it, I am left with a Fire in my Belly. That is as it should be. I'm stirred up, left-awonderin', what is my part of late in the go against the evil flow?

Fawnin' a mite because I thank you,

—EM'RYNN ARTUNIAN

P.S. I've left an opening for your one detractor-in-mid-life-crisis-per-issue: "Why, she? he? is describing the Movement as if it were just a magazine..."

The Magazine as if it were a movement..."

My beloved comrades,

It is inspiring to see EF! engaged in constructive debate that can only help guide forward our movement. The participants to our nonviolent debate, while doing an excellent job of expressing our diverse sentiments and beliefs, failed to address whether we can all agree that a reevaluation of tactics and strategy that contribute to a diversified struggle more susceptible to unification and solidarity with other victimized and repressed resistances should be an objective of EF!. Ghandian nonviolence does have an important role to play in our movement, but we must remember the accomplishments of Ghandian nonviolence in the US civil rights movement and in India fell short of achieving long-term peace and equality. Ghandi accepted the partitioning of India thereby planting the seed for what has become a nuclear arms race with Pakistan, and institutional racism in Amerikkka still exists though less overtly. The great difference between Ghandi and King's struggle and ours is that we do not only fight for improved treatment, living and work conditions for humans but also for preservation from shortsighted destruction of all living beings and organisms necessary to this planet's existence. No one is asking EF! to take up arms or hurt people, but what I advocate is the adherence to traditional tactics and strategy of EF!ers of

this century and those past. That is the destruction of machines built for life's destruction be it human, animal or earth herself. Whether we distance ourselves from such tactics remains unaddressed by the nonviolent debate or discussion of whether EF! considers such actions violent. This is the issue I believe most deserves attention and discussion if we are to prevent nature's destruction and prevent future generations of human and nonhuman races from becoming refugees, prison-



ers or extinct. I disagree that EF! should shy away from tactics that most define the no-compromise arm of our earth-defending forces and make us a movement that truly puts the earth before inanimate man-made property intended to inflict harm on her fragile body. How about some debate and clarification on just what EF! defines as violent and discussion of our policy towards monkeywrenching? Many EF!ers still believe monkeywrenching is a tactic that deserves not just EF! support, but promotion. Few will deny our earth mother deserves the temporary pain relief of monkeywrenching until above-ground forces negotiate and secure long-term environmental victories that hold. Now more than ever EF! needs to pressure earth destroying forces with all forms of direct action until they succumb to the voice of ecological and logical reason that protecting our earth and all her children, animal and human, is to everyone's benefit. In struggle,

—ROD CORONADO EF! / ALF POW

To Whoeverz Out There,

A thought occurred to me the other day—Having run a landscape tree healing business I remembered the many times a small piece of nylon twine/string jammed my chainsaw in a heart-beat. I had to take it apart to run

it again. My thought being, cutting up many thousands of pieces of said material, mixing with paste (colored to match bark of tree to be saved) and painting mixture into cracks of said trees bark. I suggest the side loggers cut their "face" cut in. This is usually the downhill side or the side the tree is leaning to. This is the chainsaws achilles heel. You may stop 'em



photo courtesy of MMC

10x longer and boy/girl will they be pissed. Trust me this is a very frustrating experience.

—ANONYMOUS LOVER OF MOTHER

P.S. Old fishing nets might be a good source of required nylon string. Love...

Dear Shit fer Brains,

"Plants need people as much as people need plants."? I can't imagine that no one else would write one, but just in case here's

literally correct Native American oriented wordage to make it palatable. My feeling is that if this thing had been dished up without a rich and creamy Native American sauce, it more likely would have run in a "wise-use" periodical than *EF! Journal*.

I often wish I'd been born in Southern California a few thousand instead of 48 years ago. I agree with and support indigenous peoples' ways a lot more than those of modern culture. But Native Americans can be quoted out of context, and they can say questionable or downright dumb things just like anyone else.

How about Dennis' quote from a Makahama Pomo elder?: "All plants are like that. If they're not gathered from or talked to or cared about they'll die." By far most plants evolved without human gathering or talking to or care and did great for ages. Seriously, how much plant life on Earth is in better health from any kind or degree of use by humans? Dennis uses this to warn us of the harmful effect of "underharvesting" forests, "undergrazing" ranges, etc. In the real world, how many places have you seen in overall better condition from any kind or degree of logging, ranching, etc. than if left to Nature?

Granted, some plants do better if cropped or browsed or burned or flooded or whatever. But the influences these plants evolved to benefit from where nonhuman entities, and humans have never demonstrated they can come close to simulating them to provide the overall benefit these natural influences do. Dennis, show us any logger or rancher—even Native American—actually improving an ecosystem.

"All plants" need human help or "they'll die."? What about saguaros and monkey flowers and honey locusts and rock lichens and redwoods and watercress and columbines and yarrow and kelp and milkweed and dogwoods and just about every other natural plant you can think of?

Maybe it *sounds* progressive to propose that wild areas be turned over to utilization by indigenous peoples instead of being designated wilderness and such. But in the real world we know that Indian reservations all over the continent are generally as trashed as anywhere else. Would most Native Americans just pick a few nuts and berries and gather a little firewood? Or would they ranch, log, commercially cut firewood, mine, drive off-road with pickups, and so on excessively and destructively as already does occur on nearly every reservation?

Another consideration is that Native Americans probably have been doing a lot of environmental damage even for thousands of years into the past. Evidence strongly indicates that some plants and animals were essentially wiped out and many others reduced in numbers and distribution long before Europeans arrived (this is not to lessen the vastly greater destruction done later by Europeans and their descendants).

So, would the land be better off under Native American control than under those who control it now? It all depends on the people and circumstances. I'd guess it probably would be in most cases. But would it be better off under Native American control than if left to Nature? Extremely unlikely. Does the nonhuman world need human assistance to sur-

photo courtesy of the Midnight Media Critics, Seattle

vive and flourish? I thought we'd figured that out long ago. No, I'm not saying that humans are inherently destructive and don't have a place in nature. It's just that very few people exist anymore—even amongst Native Americans—who do more good than harm. We need to find ways to live more naturally and do less harm, but in the meantime we need to protect the planet.

—LYNN JACOBS

does Lynn Jacobs. Another article would be all of the ways plants respond favorably to the appropriate kind of care giving. DNA itself was effected through Indian burning and selective harvesting. Ignore Indians as keystone ecosystem players, and you are part of the problem and not the solution to extinction of species and indigenous cultures.

—DENNIS MARTINEZ

and these are true accounts of what happened. Ultimately Hepples' antics were turned against the secret state. One of the reasons the state brought the Gandalf prosecution was, at least in part, an act of revenge against the GA for exposing their operations. The Gandalf case has much wider significance, however, and it is most important to realize this. As a defence strategy, in

ment down to a squabble between personalities and distracts attention away from the core issue—state repression.

Yours Sincerely,

—STEPHEN BOOTH, COMMUNITY RESISTANCE EDITOR OF GREEN ANARCHIST.

(Writing in personal capacity. This letter is my own opinion and does not necessarily represent the views of others.)

Dear EF!ers everywhere,

We have recently learned the EF! Journal's "Eco-Action/EF! France" contact, Adrian Franks, is a confirmed infiltrator. While claiming to be a mere foot doctor, he had established "Risk Crisis Analysis," an outfit registered both in France and Britain to sell information about "violent" and "dangerous" activist groups from a variety of movements and countries. Please take the necessary precautions/action.

Adrian used the last names Lechene and Mayer for use with his corporate clients. Many of Adrian's clients have been contacted to explain that they will no longer receive any useful information from him—and while we oppose their corporate destruction of the Earth, we are nonviolent and Adrian had exaggerated the nature of our activities for his own profit-making purposes.

We strongly recommend you cut all ties with Adrian Franks/Mayer/Lechene. Take him off mailing lists (95, rue de la Marine, 62224 Equihen-Plage, France; ecoaction.ef.mala@wanadoo.fr).

This is quite shocking news to us here, as we've known Adrian personally through various international gatherings. He even attended our "Towards Car-Free

Deer Shit for Brians,

I would like to thank all the folks who have supported my work at the Journal and also supported my decision to leave. The past five and a half years have been a hoot, but it's time to make room for new blood at the paper.

And to answer the most frequent question I hear: I'm now working at the Native Forest Council [(541) 688-2600] on their fine publication, the *Forest Voice*.

But don't for a minute think I will cease to be active with EF! I'm trying to get together a bunch of colonialists to head over to the UK EF! gathering September 9, and I'm planning to start an EF! Action Update (newsletter) for the US. Let me know if you want to participate or help in any way.

Thanks for all the fun,

—JIM FLYNN

JIMFLYNN@FORESTCOUNCIL.ORG

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

Missing from Journal coverage of the recent Sierra Club Democrisis was the bogosity inherent in the fundamental nature of immigration itself. Immigration, as opposed to migration, depends on assuming the validity of the international border as legitimate, if not sacrosanct.

The forces that imposed the international border on us are the same ones that would have us as captive audience for the petroeconomy and cornucopia of chemicals of industrial farming, be it soy for cattle on the prairie or old growth for paneling in the beautiful hills of Oregon.

The real issue here is not who's crossing arbitrary lines in the sand or water but population increases around the world and the effects of high population growth on the carrying capacity of all ecosystems. Those who benefit from a large pool of cheap labor that unrestrained population growth leaves in its wake and the religious fanatics who provide the theology to make it palatable are our enemies, not people following a treacherous economic path of least resistance.

Of course readers of the Journal should hardly be surprised when the most reactionary of liberal environmentalists attempt to close the door on opportunity, as they did here in California with education, so long as they've got theirs already. If they were willing to live, say, at the level where their impact would equal that of an Honduran then they'd be more convincing but no less wrong.

So long as the people who run this country rig it so that we get so much more than the rest of the world, immigration will be inevitable. The solution to this is to drop our artificially cheap abundance of trivial crap and abandon the growth-imperative economy, not blame the powerless.

I applaud the Sierrans as a whole for doing the right thing here. Lets just be sure we don't accept the reactionary terms of the Seirrhoids to frame this important debate.

—MARC SALOMON, SAN FRANCISCO, CA PUNK@QUEERNET.ORG

Martinez responds:

Lynn Jacobs expresses, perhaps poorly and crudely, some very widespread misconceptions about indigenous cultures and nature. They are typically Western, especially North American, and are precisely what I was attempting to address in my article.

First, who is Dennis Martinez? I am O'aham/Chicano. As director of the Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network, I work with traditional indigenous communities in North America, Mexico, and Hawaii. I am co-director with my elder, Agnez Pilgrim of Siletz Reservation of the Takilma Intertribal Project. I am on the Advisory Council of the Cultural Conservancy, Board member of Black Mesa Permaculture Project (Navajo), Indigenous Permaculture Center, Baca Institute of Ethnobotany and a member of the Traditional Knowledge Council of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. All of these are Indian organizations, and all contribute to the cultural survival of Native Americans and Hawaiians (I'm a member of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission).

Our cultural reference point is neither Western "political correctness" nor "progressive" politics. Rather, our cultural orientation is to our ancestors and elders who were and still are intimately involved with the plants and animals—since time out of mind. I quoted two such elders in my article. The article was first published in the Indian magazine *Winds of Change* several years ago and has since been reprinted in a number of Indian publications. Indian response has been favorable, white response has been mixed. Why? We look at nature fundamentally in different ways. Our environmental ethics have spiritual teeth: if you don't treat the plants and animals with respect, they will go extinct and so will you. We don't oppose "use" with "conservation."

Plants and animals have co-evolved with humans for perhaps a million years, just as plants have coevolved with animals, floods, fire, wind, snow, etc. We humans are co-creators with plants, animals, and the "elements" because, unlike the Biblical account, creation is never finished. They are our relatives. Take care of them and they will take care of you. Indigenous peoples learned over great lengths of time to both use and conserve/restore. Undoubtedly mistakes were made. People had to learn from those mistakes or perish. Today, traditionals representing that ancient balanced way oppose "progressive" tribal and band councils willing to sell out for short-term gain. (I have participated in this struggle with EF! "Restoration brigade" at Sinkyone and with Terra Prima on Vancouver Island, BC, in our mutual cause against multinational corporations.)

The white rationale for genocide was that Indians were not using the land to its full productive capacity. Whites still believe this. So

Dear EF! Journal folks,

In the recent Litha (June-July '98) issue of the EF! Journal, the "Going Wild" Rewilding the Gila supplement by the SW Center for Biological Diversity (P.18) mistakenly said that "Sky Island Watch" teamed up with SWCBD and SW Trout to "put the Rio Grande cutthroat trout on the Endangered Species list." This should read "Carson Forest Watch" not Sky Island Watch (no cutthroats in Sky Islands!) We three groups petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Rio Grande cutthroat trout as an endangered species in Feb. '98. SWCBD recently filed a lawsuit against USFWS for failing to respond to our petition in the required 90 days. Thanks for making the correction in the next issue. Long live the native trout! Sincerely,

—JOANIE BERTIE,
'DIRECTOR' CARSON
FOREST WATCH
CITIZENS GROUP

Dear EF! Journal:

Re: GREEN ANARCHIST and THE HEPPLER INFILTRATION As one of the jailed and now bailed editors of *Green Anarchist*, I feel I must write about the letter by Noel Molland in your February/March issue (p. 3). Some people from North America have written to GA taking Noel's letter to be a denial of the Hepple affair. As one of the people directly affected, I can assure you that *Green Anarchist* was definitely infiltrated by the secret state spy and provocateur, Tim Hepple, during 1991-92. Noel was not involved in the Hepple episode, and so is not in a position to deny it. The "A Lie Too Far" case is not a 'scare story'—it really did happen, but six years on from it we are not bloody scared and we are still here, alive and kicking. Nor has it made us paranoid. The point is the infiltrator was exposed in the booklets *A Lie Too Far* and *At War With The Truth*

August/September 1997, Paul Rogers, (the unnamed General Editor of *Green Anarchist* attacked in Noel's letter) tried to use the trial to expose these secret state dirty tricks. Paul's barrister refused to cooperate and resigned the case rather than accept Paul's instructions. As a result of this Paul was severed from the case to be tried later. Some of the other defendants disagreed with Paul's strategy, but I think it is clear he has every moral and legal right to pursue that strategy. I agree with Noel that the Gandalf trial is about free speech and about suppressing our capacity to publish

facts and opinions. It is also about suppressing the politics of direct action based protest, and about suppressing anarchism. Noel's point about the significance of the case does not detract from the possibility that Paul's strategy of exposing the Hepple affair and other secret state matters in court might have some effect on the process. A possible defense strategy is something apart from the general significance of the case itself. I can understand why Noel writes attacking Paul as 'paranoid' and an 'ego-head.' Paul has his faults but so does Noel, as we all have faults. Name calling is not helpful. All this is unfortunate because it reduces an attack by the state on the green move-

Cities" last October. We knew he didn't seem to be doing much as EF! France, and we found it a bit odd he was a meat-eating animal rights activist, but we thought him a legitimate activist all the same. It turns out that someone in our Car Busters office here in Lyon had been quietly compiling some of the proof against Adrian for the last couple months. When presented with the damaging evidence, Adrian had nothing to say to defend himself.

We would be happy to serve as EF! France contact in Adrian's absence.

All the best,

—RANDY GHENT, FRANCE

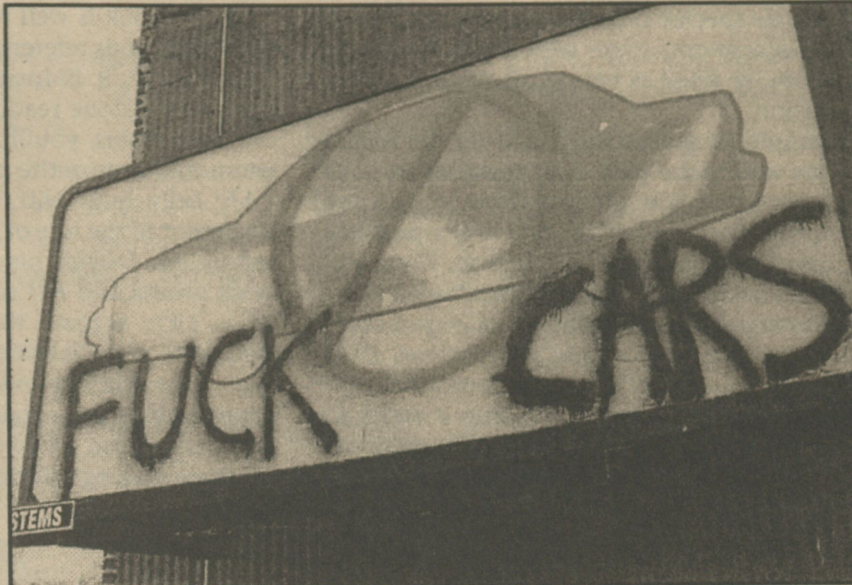


photo courtesy of the Midnight Media Critics, Seattle

Ecology AND Economics OF THE Great Plains

BOOK REVIEW BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

In the evening, before we encamped, another immense herd (bison) made its appearance, running along the bluffs at full speed, and although at least a mile from us, we could distinctly hear the sound of their feet, which resembled distant thunder.

—JOHN BRADBURY, *TRAVELS IN THE INTERIOR OF AMERICAN IN THE YEARS 1809, 1810, 1811*

Daniel Licht's new book, *Ecology and Economics of the Great Plains*, has an accurate, descriptive title for what might more poetically be called "Distant Thunder." For rolling within this volume is not only a celebration of the basic ecological-geographical relationships on the plains and how economic activities, primarily agriculture, have affected them, but also a compelling strategic outline of how to restore the distant thunder of bison as well as the rest of the region's ecological fabric.

Licht's book documents how radically altered the Great Plains have been since their settlement by Euro-Americans, and yet, ironically, Licht also contends that no landscape offers as great an opportunity for widespread landscape restoration.

As a landscape, the Great Plains are mostly unloved and largely unknown outside of the region. Today most people simply look at the Great Plains as a place to get over and beyond, not a place to linger, and certainly not a place to love and nurture. However, as any comprehensive reading of the journals of early travelers demonstrates, the plains were once an awe-inspiring landscape with a magnificently raw climate and an abundance of wildlife. In fact, prior to Euro-American settlement, the

plains contained the greatest concentration of wildlife in North America.

The story begins with a basic description of the region's climate and geography, and a brief history of its settlement. This is followed by chapters on Great Plains biodiversity, what it once was, and what it is now. There is a chapter that brings these generalized concepts to bear on specific species like the black-footed ferret, Dakota skipper butterfly, swift fox, gray wolf, prairie dog and American burying beetle. In these brief species overviews, Licht is particularly good at showing that not only were many of these species individually important in the grassland ecosystem, some were keystone species that essentially acted as biological processes shaping evolution.

For example, in presenting a case for the restoration of the wolf to the plains, Licht argues we could restore more than just an extirpated species, we could restore the ecological function of a major predator.

The loss of large predators like wolves, along with the habitat changes wrought by agriculture and human settlement, have contributed to a huge increase in mid-size predators like skunks and red foxes. At the same time, the amount of habitat for prey species, like prairie waterfowl, has shrunk, making it easier for predators to find nesting waterfowl. The result is a huge decline in ducks. This is due in part to habitat

the foundation provided by the Poppers, Bob Scott, and others, he gives statistic after statistic to document the decline of the Great Plains' rural economy and its social institutions. He follows this with the single best discussion I've ever seen of America's farm program and how it not only contributes to the destruction of the grassland ecosystem but also is destroying America's farmers.

His last few chapters provide a hopeful look into the future. He discusses major ecological reserves on the plains and the political obstacles to restoring these reserves.

Licht's book is well researched and documented with numerous references, graphs and charts. More importantly, it is insightful and hopeful. By the time you're done reading *Ecology and Economics of the Great Plains*, you'll not only be convinced that we should restore the plains but that we can.

My only quip with the book concerns Licht's treatment of the role of livestock in his strategies for restoration. Despite his excellent review of how livestock production has negatively affected the grasslands, Licht suggests that somehow we can reform grazing to make it more compatible with conservation goals while providing continuing economic opportunities for rural residents. In this respect, Licht is not alone, of course, and there are many who advocate grazing reform as not only politically feasible, but desirable.

Such hopeful arguments for reforming livestock production always leave out a contextual framework for discussion of its full ecological impacts. For instance, we mustn't forget that all those croplands Licht documents as fragmenting and degrading the Great Plains are growing crops like corn to feed livestock, primarily cattle. And after explaining why wolf restoration is of such importance, it seems rather naive to assume that livestock producers would permit the restoration of a major predator across a substantial amount of the plains landscape.

Despite these harsh political realities, Licht's book is worthy of reading, not only by those interested in the plains or grasslands, but by anyone interested in restoration. *Ecology*

and Economics of the Great Plains presents a conservation biology based method for analyzing the human-land interaction and a reasoned strategy for landscape-scale restoration.



conversion, but it is also a consequence of a predation relationship that didn't exist 100 years ago.

Licht reviews both public and private lands and opportunities for conservation. Then working upon

GREENWAR

BOOK REVIEW BY SUSAN FRANZ

Greenwar, a newly published novel by Stephen Gould and Laura Mixon, dives into the ethical considerations of blowing up multinationals.

The story begins in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with a group of environmental activists that have just blown up Woodland Products, a giant, nasty corporation destroying forests everywhere. Gabriel Cervantes is a popular environmental activist who has been involved in desert issues for many years and is thought to be involved in the bombing. After the action, he and his friends Jax and Mark are approached by a woman named Boadica who offers all the supplies needed to inflict harm on a "green" corporation doing sustainable energy research. Boadica thinks green corporations are more despicable than regular polluters because they create the illusion that corporations can be sustainable.

The story showcases technological know-how in the fields of diving and ocean research. It also does an excellent job inserting the mandatory love affair necessary to all thrillers. The authors juice up the love affair by masquerading it in a series of crises. The first crisis to hit Gulf Stream I, the green corporation's facility, is a hurricane off the Florida coast. This makes the facility an easy target while it is being repaired. The second crisis is General Motors falling through as a funder and the corporation having to look for other auto producers to keep up the venture.

An extra bonus in the mix is that Gabriel is the past lover of Emma Tookey, the woman who designed and runs the facility. Emma is the strong heroine-type who will do anything to see her project through and will not let a past flame get in her way.

The book mixes Environmental Protection Agency environmental compliance conspiracy with FBI COINTELPRO tactics to create a thriller that will make you question property destruction. It also begs the question of whether facilities like Gulf Stream actually help our sustainability. This is a must-read for all Earth First!ers.

OFFERINGS TO LUNA

A tree
a life
so many years gone by
history bound in each new ring and every scar
i lay nestled in Her arms
i listen to all She has to say
She speaks to me through my bare feet...my hands
She speaks to me on the wind...and in the rain
telling me stories born long before my time
Wisdom
as only Ancient Elders know
Truths
passed to me through Nature's perfect lips
She cries
Her overwhelming grief
sap that clings to me....to my soul
i wrap my arms around Her
offering the only solace that i know
giving myself as the only gift i have to give
a pitiful offering
to a Goddess such as this
but of myself
it is all that i have to give

—Julia Butterfly Hill

he felt it was the right thing,
though he was older and disabled.
he thought it would be safer and
he'd be of better use... over here..
out of the way.. of the, hot area
down at the gate. and that
EARTH 1ST

banner was sagging.. with only one
person at each end.

so there he stood..
the right place, the right time.
... a new 3/4 ton longbed w/dualies
driving a young logger w/his wife and
all their frustrated enslavements
lashed across their faces pulled
quickly up behind a steaming radiator.
GET OUDDA THE WAY!!

"sorry bro, i can't do that."

i really couldn't.

slowly being forced back, my 18
year
old army boots squeaked with real
purpose for the 1st time, my raked
lean with weight at my chest and
fists
pressing the EARTH 1ST banner
against
the heat of the radiator, the heat
of
frustrations, the heat of desperation,
the heat of this passion on this
already too hot Plum Creek summers
day

(hell this dance of Love would be
better performed within just a little
bit of shade) suddenly the bellowing
voice of another earth 1st brother
approaching the truck, "The gate's
locked down there, you can't get in,
so just Turn This Truck Around!!"

—Azure Russell Rappa

CAMPFIRE TALK

Lonely, contemplating suicide?
Go alone into the forest, find a clearing,
Gather wood, build a fire, stay up all night,
with the fire and the stars.
Have a little blackberry brandy as your telescope
to bring the stars closer in.
The sound of the fire, the smell of the fire,
The light and heat of the fire
will help you, heal you.
A campfire is a Paleolithic experience
we can all still have.
Renew the pledge of brotherhood round the fire.
Renew the pledge of sisterhood round the fire.
Held hands in a circle and each make
the sacred vow and pledge
And then silence, silence
and the fire,
But really you're alone,
You only imagined your friends
and lovers near,
Only imagined all the poets you love
holding hands round the fire as one.

The flames recede,
The logs fall in among themselves,
Sparks fly up, a puff of smoke, a sigh,
the fire dies down.
The cold creeps in and you draw nearer
the ebbing flame,
And then the embers, the embers glowing
softly red
While above the startling stars
and forest smell rush in
as eyes adjust to the dark.

The towering ancient trees nearby
Cease being lit
by flickering light,
Warm your hands one last time
over the dying fire.
Remain. Remain long
after the fire is out,
Long after the cold creeps in.
Look up at the stars
longer than you ever have
and maybe ever will.

Renew the pledge of friendship round the fire.
Renew the pledge of love around the fire.
Make the vow of vows under the stars.
Renew, renew around the campfire
in the wilderness under a wilderness of stars.
And then silence, silence and the expiring fire
and the silent continuous movement
of Stars and Earth and Space
Till the embers fade away
and with the first light of day
shoulder your pack and head forth.

—Antler

BOUNDARIES & BORDERS
— for Terrapin

My grandmother's farm in Iowa is perched
on the last hill before the prairie
Glaciers toothed their way that far
and then stopped.
The west is a lake of land;
east, the chopped foam of a rough ocean.

On this mountain, cradling the Blue Ridge,
the division is different—east is patchwork
and plow, west the last flame of wilderness.
People have toothed their way to the core. Cherved
root networks into pulp and dust.

Climbing here, I paused against a dead red oak,
slid my teeth up the black birch branch sprouted
from its heart, and snipped bud off bone
to breathe wintergreen as I climbed.
Further up, I met seven ancient hemlocks
purple-skinned ancestors, spires on the stream.
I carry their death on my boots and skin
wooly innocent dust, faceless adelgid,
to suck their needles dry.
And at the creek, my feet falter in deep moss,
take a gash from the rocks, and nearly pit
my skull in a pitched battle with a boulder.
I catch myself, catch my shin. In a day I will wear
a purple bruise. In a day I will forget where it
came from.
Taste, dust, bruise: all we carry with us of the
memory of our deaths. The diseases that will kill us.

So I reach this crest, like riding a wave
out to sea. The valley breathes its yet-wildness
upward, a misted haunting,
where the Great-Forest ghost lurks,
taunting me with visions of a plumed wave
of trees, stretching tidal-vast over eager human
teeth.
Terrapin mountain swings like an arrow to the sky.
Humped across its ridgeline, a race is run
in repeating time-trickster terrapins
outwit that which feeds on speed
and arrogance; I watch leaves glisten birth
from buds and consider the lilies—Taoism
of the Old Testament—leaves like hands touching
with unbearable lightness, Rilke's figures on the
Attic gravestones: "we can go this far, this is ours...
the gods can press down harder... but that is the
gods affair." I try to walk that no sentient being
may suffer for my view—
Myth piled like a stack of turtles, cradling
the earth, all the way down.

On these borders, I long to peel my skin of color, of
country, of species. On Terrapin, I am wondering
is it possible to be human and not hate
to be human and not destroy?

A hemlock falls into the arms of rhododendron
showers its needles into the grove
and feeds sassafras to spice the air.
It pulls up a black web of roots, hung
with coiled moss. And leaves a footprint
filled with water, a breathing swamp—

Where what is chewed returns to life.

—Christina Wulf

Terrapin is part of the Blue Ridge chain, just south
of the James River.
The Terrapin Mtn. timber sale would plow through
these forests... Contact
SEDC at POB 1891, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

LOOKING FOR ACTION THIS SUMMER?

REGIONAL RONDEES FOR EVERYONE

Georgia—The Katuah bioregion will host a regional rondee from **August 13-17** in Northern Georgia. It will include fun, workshops, training and knowledge about the area. Bring food donations or cold cash for the field kitchen. Write Katuah EF! at POB 281, Chattanooga, TN 37401 or call John Johnson (423) 624-3939 or Nina at (706) 355-9963.

Vermont—The Lamb Brook Roadless Area of the green mountains will house this year's Northeast rondee from **September 4-7**. Everyone is urged to stay later for more fun. Although the courts have ruled that a previous proposal to log in the roadless area was illegal, the Freddie's and industry are back at it. There will be music, trainings and much more. For more info contact Wassumkeag EF!, POB 869, Searsport, ME 04974; noreastah@acadia.net or contact NFN at (802) 863-0571; nfnena@sover.net.

Dorset, UK—This gathering will be held in the Southwest portion of the country and will run from **September 9-14**. With workshops, discussions and practical skills training on all subjects relating to radical ecological direct action, it's a week not to miss. For all the details contact Earth First! Summer Gathering, c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Ave., Chapeltown, Leeds, LS7 3HB, UK; 0113-262-9365; cornerstone@gn.apc.org.

Montana—Held in Montana's Bitterroot Valley at the Teller Wildlife Refuge, the Wild Rockies Rondee will take place from **September 18-20**. The Alliance for the Wild Rockies invites you to join over 300 conservationists from around the US to renew your commitment to this unique bioregion. For a complete schedule, contact AWR at POB 8731, Missoula, MT 59807; (406) 721-5420; jamie@wildrockies.org.

Wisconsin—Chippewa Valley EF! invites everyone to a Midwest Regional Rondee from **September 25-27**. For more details write or call Chippewa EF!, POB 143, Menomonie, WI 54751-0790; (608) 255-8765.

NEW ZERO CUT PRIMER AVAILABLE

The Native Forest Council is now taking bulk orders for a new hard-hitting primer on Zero Cut, advocating complete and uncompromised protection for all public lands, watersheds, fish and wildlife. This educational 16-page special edition of the *Forest Voice* is suitable for distribution to conferences, conventions, public meetings, churches, book stores, libraries, natural food stores, coffee houses and the unaware—everywhere.

It is available in boxes of 25, 50, 100, 250 and 500. It comes free although you must help with shipping: \$5 for 25; \$10 for 100; \$25 for 250 and \$45 for 500.

Indicate your name, address, quantity, phone and email in your order. Send to NFC, POB 2190, Eugene, OR 97402; (541) 688-2600; deborah@forestcouncil.org.

THE BEAR ESSENTIAL MAGAZINE'S ANNUAL EDWARD ABBEY FICTION AWARD

The "Abbey" award recognizes new fiction lending itself to the spirit of Ed Abbey. The award is open to all writers who submit original, unpublished manuscripts. Complete award guidelines are available by sending a SASE to Abbey Award, POB 10342, Portland, OR 97296.

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Bay Area EF! August 14-17

Workshops on climbing, labor organizing, eco-philosophies, media, nonviolence, action strategy, banner making and hanging, Art and Revolution puppet making and street theatre. Hosted by Food Not Bombs. Call (925) 376-2726 for more information.

Gifford Pinchot NF August 7-11

Come learn how to defend forests. Participate in strategy workshops and skill sharing. The Gifford Pinchot is calling for help. For directions or are interested in helping, contact (541) 485-7333.

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THEN GET OFF YUR BUNS AND GO

WILD ROCKIES WEEK August 11-17

The Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem has a forest health problem. It is infected with the US Forest Service, which has decided that there are too many pristine rivers, lynx, steelhead and old-growth roadless areas in Idaho. Hence, the Otter Wing and Mackey Day timber sales are under attack by roadbuilding and clearcutting right next to the Cove/Mallard sales. Well, to heal the forest, the Cove/Mallard Coalition has prescribed a week of resistance and fun. Workshops, hikes in unparalleled wildness, beer, music, bonfires, monitoring and actions will highlight this year's gathering. Be prepared to teach, learn, help out, camp out, party and take action for the Big Wild. Join Us! For more information and directions contact the Cove/Mallard Coalition at POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com.

Earth First! Traveling Art Show Now Available!

The EF! Art Show is a small format installation featuring EF! t-shirt and *Journal* cover art, historic memorabilia and poetry. It is suitable for small clubs, galleries, cafes or public spaces. The show is available for EF! groups and friends to aid in fundraising and Earth awareness in your area. The only cost is for shipping (about \$25). Shows need to be reserved a month in advance. Limit the duration of your showing to two weeks.

Artists are invited to contribute copies of their artwork and poetry to expand the styles and themes presented over. Please mount the artwork or poetry on a piece of stiff cardboard or recycled matte board. Label the piece with the title and name of the artist. Reduce images and poetry to 8.5" by 11" before matting, and typeset poetry in a large, easily readable font. None of the art is for sale, and the artwork submitted cannot be returned. For more information contact EF! Santa Cruz at POB 344, Santa Cruz, CA 95061; cruzef@cruzio.com.

CHIAPAS VIDEO

NEW RELEASENEW RELEASE***

"Lacandona: The Zapatistas and Rainforest of Chiapas, Mexico"

Just released by the Native Forest Network (NFN) and Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforests of Central America (ACERCA), this 26-minute video explores the natural wealth of the Lacandon rainforest, those who wish to exploit it and how these link to both the Zapatista uprising and the ensuing government repression.

The film probes into the Zapatistas' struggle for self-determination and protection of their ancestral homelands from the threats of multinational corporations and neoliberalism. "Lacandona" will undoubtedly prove to be a valuable tool to grassroots organizers, as well as educating civil society about these issues which are of paramount importance to us all.

To order in the Americas, send (US) \$10 plus \$2 shipping and handling. Institutions send \$25 plus \$2 s&h. All others, please inquire. Send check or money order to (earmark, video): Native Forest Network Eastern North America Resource Center, POB 57 Burlington, VT USA 05402; (802) 863-0571 864-8203 fax; nfnena@sover.net; <http://www.nativeforest.org>.



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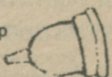
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- Sept 15- Bellingham, WA
- Sept 16- Cyber Cafe, Clinton, Whidbey Island, WA
- Sept 17- Cascadia Forest Revue, Portland, OR 503/241-4879
- Sept 18- Olympia, WA
- Sept 19- Reed College, Portland, OR
- Sept 22-Corvallis, OR
- Sept 25- Arcata, CA
- Sept 26-Recreation Center, Mendocino, CA
- Sept 27-Heartwood

If you or your group can help publicize an event, please call! For more info contact (360) 341-4601 or (503) 241-4879; tinker@whidbey.com.

GAIA MUSIC FESTIVAL RESCHEDULED

This three day camp out for Headwaters has been rescheduled to October 2-4 in Mendocino County. Performers, vendors and musicians can call (707) 923-4949 for more information.

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There is a new biocentric anarchist quarterly coming out called *FERAL* dedicated to expanding biocentric theory and practice. This is for everyone who believes in wildness, freedom, wilderness and animal defense or anyone who is into independent thought, pushing the boundaries of creative dialogue. The first issue will be released winter of 1998. We are presently asking for submissions (deadline is September 1), donations, contacts and help with distribution. Please contact us for a mission statement, submission requirements, merchandise list or deadlines and themes for future issues.

Send requests and donations to *FERAL*, 530 Divisadero, Suite 321, San Francisco, CA 94117; highwater@hotmail.com.

DISASTER STRIKES LUCY PARSON'S CENTER, HELP!

The Lucy Parson's Center, Boston's only collectively run autonomous infoshop/bookstore was hit with disaster on June 13. A huge rainstorm flooded the basement where two-thirds of the stock was being stored. No insurance will cover the loss. Already suffering from low sales, a plea is being sent for bailout help. Please help the 30-year-old center remain open. Send any assistance to LPC, 259A Elm St., Somerville, MA 02144.



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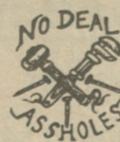
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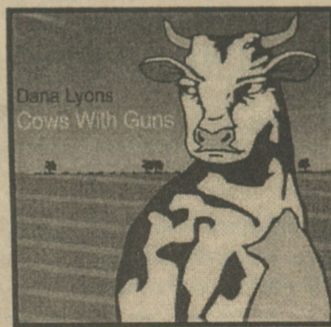
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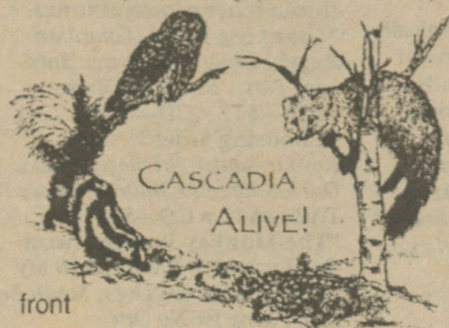
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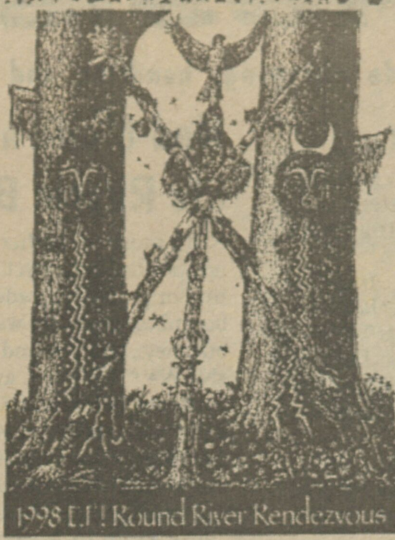
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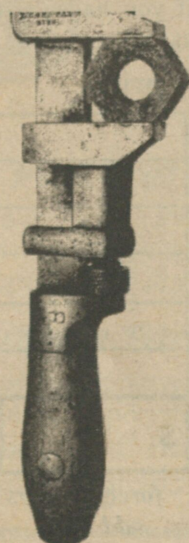
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